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Yair Nitzani's favorite musicians



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AGENDA

A bridge too soon

This evening, Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky is to meet with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in her magnificent Washington office on the seventh floor of the State Department building.

Sharansky left for Washington on the pretext of being briefed by Vice President Al Gore on the aid Russia is providing Iran for developing non-conventional offensive weapons. American and Israeli intelligence reports show that Moscow has been pulling the wool over Washington's eyes. Iranian long-range missiles are already an immediate threat to Israel. In the long-term, there are also signs of a threatening progress being made in Teheran in the development of nuclear weapons.

Sharansky's trip to the US was originally planned for the end of the month. Political attacks Uzi Arad, already a frequent flier on the Tel Aviv-New York route, could just as well have received the briefing on the talks held between Gore and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin on the Iranian issue.

See AGENDA, Page 6

Publisher decides against Willey book deal

By LARRY MARGASAK

WASHINGTON (AP) — A publisher who considered a book deal with one of US President Bill Clinton's accusers said yesterday he lost interest partly because the account provided by Kathleen Willey on television was "a different story" than the one he had heard from her lawyer.

The former White House volunteer emerged from the shadows to describe a 1993 encounter with Clinton following her testimony to a federal grand jury.

"The Kathleen Willey, presented on [CBS's] 60 Minutes was a different person with a different story than the portrait that had been painted for me in the last couple of months," said Michael Viner, head of New Millennium Entertainment in California.

Viner told ABC's television program *Good Morning America* that Willey's lawyer had approached him earlier, seeking \$300,000 for a book that presented her as "a fan, a friend who cared about President Clinton."

Viner said he had his doubts about the book idea even before Willey's appearance on 60 Minutes.

Willey's lawyer, Daniel Gecker, has acknowledged approaching Viner to determine if he would be interested in such a book and told *The New York Times* that Viner said the 60 Minutes appearance could reignite interest in the book.

Gecker said he suspected Willey's nationally televised allegation that Clinton made an unwanted sexual advance in the Oval Office would kill any chance for the book, the *Times* reported.

In another development, reports yesterday said Willey gave a sworn statement three years ago that didn't mention her encounter in which she now says the president fondled her.



Children frolic in the snow yesterday morning in Jerusalem's Geula neighborhood.

(Brian Hendler)

Jerusalem braced for more snow

By ELI WOLGELER

Following a sandstorm on Monday that turned the country yellow, and the storm over Har Homa on Tuesday that caused the government to see red, residents of Jerusalem and its environs, the Galilee and the Golan woke yesterday to the sight of white, following a freak overnight snowstorm that caught everyone unprepared.

There were conflicting forecasts last night for today's accumulation, but some snow was expected overnight, and the Jerusalem Municipality was braced for the worst.

"It's going to snow," said Orna Maor of the Meteorological Service. "How heavy it will be I can't be sure, but it will be snowing."

About 10 centimeters of snow fell by yesterday morning after an

eight-hour snowfall that began at 3 a.m. The main entrance to the city from Tel Aviv was closed until mid-morning, and there was no school.

Public transportation went on an emergency schedule, and many people stayed home from work.

Even the government was affected. At the Prime Minister's Office, Director of Communications David Bar-Ilan was very lonely.

"There is not a soul here. I'm the only one in the whole office," he said. "Netanyahu canceled the morning cabinet during which they were supposed to discuss Lebanon."

Frustrated shop owners who couldn't get to work early were quick to criticize the municipality for lack of preparedness and for lack of equipment to deal with the winter's second snowfall.

"This morning the municipality

deserves a certificate of failure," said a man selling bread at the Habba bakery on Jaffa Road, near the Mahaneh Yehuda market.

"We pay taxes all year round, and they should have been ready for any eventuality. If they would have started clearing the roads at 6 a.m. everything would have been on the move by 8."

But city spokesman Hagai Elias said the city had in fact started clearing the roads from the time he and a dozen other city administrators were awakened by overnight staffers at 4 a.m.

"We sent out the trucks, first to clear the roads to four hospitals, and then we worked on public transportation roads. By 9:30 a.m., everything was open in the city."

Elias said they didn't have snow plows and bulldozers on standby, because "according to the forecast [on Tuesday night] that we

received in writing, they said there would be no snow this morning."

City Manager Ra'anan Dimur dismissed the notion that the city should purchase extra snow equipment, "because it costs a lot of money, and if I have the NIS 25 million this equipment costs, I prefer, and the mayor prefers, to invest it in education, culture, or other services."

Elias said that seven centers would be open all night to prepare for today's accumulation, each with one or two tractors or salt trucks, at a cost of NIS 100,000.

"They can do the minimum — we are not promising that everything will be clean, and we are not promising that there will be school, because if there won't be school we won't cry over it," he said.

He said the city has about 35-40 heavy trucks and tractors to deploy in the event of a blizzard.

Senior US official hints:

PM-Arafat summit possible

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON — It would be wrong to conclude that Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is trying to arrange a summit between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat next week, a senior US official said yesterday.

The official nonetheless left open the possibility that such a meeting could occur.

Albright evaded a question on the matter, saying only that she would be in Bonn for discussions related to the Kosovo crisis and that "we are looking into how to breathe life again" into the peace process, something she called "a real necessity."

In Jerusalem, Netanyahu's media adviser said that nobody in the bureau "knows anything about the possibility of such a meeting."

Speaking to reporters during a break in her luncheon with Jordan's King Hussein, Albright refused to comment on the controversy in Jerusalem involving British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook's visit Tuesday, saying it is not "what we should be focusing on."

"The truth is that what has to happen here is that the leaders of the parties in the region, that are part of the problem in terms of trying to resolve the Middle East peace process, are the ones who have to make the decisions," Albright said. "The focus is on them, and they are the ones that need to make the hard decisions."

"The rest of us can serve a variety of roles in pushing the process forward — providing ideas, being catalytic. But it is up to them to really make the hard decisions. They are the ones who are in

charge of the process."

Albright said the US is "constantly exploring ways to move the process forward... faster."

Hussein stated that the process "appears stalled at the moment," and that it is "very very important for the peoples of the region to seize the opportunity."

Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky is to meet with Albright tonight at the State Department. He met with Vice President Al Gore here in Washington yesterday, primarily to compare notes on Russia's nuclear and missile cooperation with Iran following Gore's discussion here last week with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Sharansky, who had met here last month with Gore's advisers in advance of the Gore-Chernomyrdin parley and Sharansky's own visit to Moscow, said afterwards that although there has been some progress in limiting the cooperation, Israel "is not happy" with the situation now.

Sharansky denied that he was sent here on a diplomatic mission to try to prevent the Americans from issuing a proposal for the next IDF redeployment in the West Bank.

While he and Gore did discuss the peace process, their session focused on the Russia-Iran problem, Sharansky said. He was scheduled to meet later in the day with US special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross.

Meanwhile, Hussein told members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Tuesday that he is worried about the Israeli-Palestinian stalemate and believes American leadership is required now to press both sides to make progress.

Clocks go forward tonight

By ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

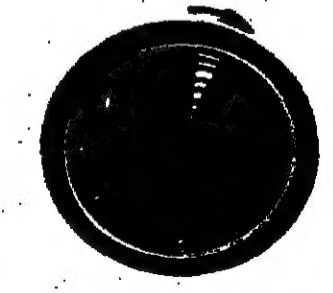
Given the weather in recent days, the idea of starting what the country calls "summer time" tonight seems patently absurd.

But despite the snow, thunder, lightning, and rain that has been blanketing the country, we move our clocks ahead at midnight.

In a way, it's only appropriate that summer should be ushered in under such chilly conditions. Back in September, when the clock was moved back for "winter time," it was 32 degrees. And one can almost guarantee that on September 5, when "winter time" returns again, it will still be sweltering hot.

So how did winter become summer and summer become winter?

Part of the answer is that our seasons have become hostage to politics. Practically since the state's



inception, there has been controversy over whether or not there should be daylight saving time here, and if so, for how long.

Traditionally, most proponents are business leaders and non-Orthodox politicians — who argue that more waking daylight hours mean energy savings, safer streets, and more beach time. Opponents are usually religious politicians, who dislike the effect daylight saving time has on prayer times and the fact that it makes Shabbat begin and end later.

Momentum is on the side of secular daylight saving time is now the law, and though the law specifies that it must last for at least 150 days, it has generally lasted much longer.

As with any ongoing political hot potato, all aspects of daylight saving time are being examined by a special committee, appointed by Interior Minister Eli Shalev.

The committee, comprising experts in various fields, is charged with providing a definitive answer to the recurring "summer time" debate.

But if the experience with similar committees is any indicator, political sniping over changing the clock will stay with us, as dependable as the changing of the seasons.

British stunned at Cook visit fallout

By DOUGLAS DAVIS and JAY BUSHINSKY

British officials and Middle East observers yesterday were genuinely dismayed by the diplomatic fallout of the Har Homa posturing by Foreign Secretary Robin Cook on Monday.

The Foreign Office was reported to be "in a state of panic," while at least one former senior politician questioned Cook's competence to hold his post.

It is widely acknowledged that the Har Homa episode has damaged the close bilateral ties that have been painstakingly developed between Britain and Israel over the past two decades.

And there is concern that the consequences of the fiasco will cast a pall over the visit here next month by British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Cook's immediate predecessor broke with long-standing tradition, which prevents criticism of foreign secretaries while they are on overseas missions, to suggest that Cook might not be fit to hold office.

Interviewed on the BBC's main lunchtime news program, Sir Malcolm Rifkind was asked to comment on a suggestion in *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that Cook was "accident-prone."

"I think there must be a question mark about his personality [being suitable] for this particular job," Rifkind said. "Inevitably, the foreign secretary's job requires diplomatic skills, and either he's going to learn them or he's going to increasingly find himself in this sort of predicament."

It is "an important requirement when visiting a country in a very sensitive area for the first time that you win the trust of the people

with whom you are hoping to do business and trying to influence," he continued. "To achieve that, Cook should have adopted a balanced agenda."

At the same time, he added, Cook's posturing "is unlikely to have impressed serious Arab opinion, which wants British and European ministers to be able to influence Israeli policy. If there is to be any chance of this, there will have to be, at the very least, a relationship of mutual trust. And that doesn't seem to be happening."

An editorial in the *Times* described the visit as "an unequivocal disaster," pointing out that "if

the backing of all the foreign ministers of the European Union to state clearly the EU policy on the Middle East and to meet the key players in the region. We have achieved all of those objectives."

In Parliament yesterday, Blair mounted a predictable defense of Cook, declaring that he was "entirely justified in doing what he did."

Meanwhile, a senior government official who says the consequent diplomatic damage will be repaired and relations between London and Jerusalem will quickly revert to normal, said that lack of coordination between Britain's consulate in Jerusalem and its embassy in Tel Aviv may have contributed to the mayhem that erupted during his visit.

Rejecting this notion, British press attaché Sara Buchanan said that "although Har Homa was part of the consulate's program," Ambassador David Manning was personally involved in every aspect of the secretary's visit.

"It was he who assiduously sought an understanding on how the itinerary should proceed and it was only on the day the minister was scheduled to go there that the Israeli side took exception."

Buchanan said an understanding had been reached "a couple of weeks" before Cook's arrival regarding his then-projected stop at Har Homa. She said Israeli officials knew he wanted to go there and plans were made accordingly.

"It became clear that the objections came from the Prime Minister's Office," she said.

In any case, what had been reduced to a 10-minute meeting with Netanyahu turned into a session that lasted an hour and a quarter, she pointed out.

'Cook's visit drives EU against Israel', Page 2

the situation were reversed — on, for example, Northern Ireland — the public in England would expect a British prime minister to be equally forceful."

In an attempt at damage-control, Foreign Office Minister Derek Fatchett attempted to disengage Cook from his actions by suggesting that Cook was essentially fulfilling a mandate that had been handed to him by foreign ministers of the EU, of which Britain holds the current presidency.

Asked if the outcome of the visit had been what the Foreign Office had hoped for, Fatchett sought to put the best spin on what is increasingly seen as a diplomatic disaster.

"We were keen to act on behalf of the European Union," he replied. "We are in the presidency, the foreign secretary has gone with

Abusive parents not sent to jail at daughter's request

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

The Tel Aviv District Court yesterday decided to take into consideration an 18-year-old haredi girl's request and not jail her parents for child abuse since doing so would hurt her chances of getting married.

The couple was convicted of severely abusing their six children over a five-year period.

In a plea bargain, Judge Savion Rodlevi agreed to sentence the father to a three-month suspended sentence and the mother to an

eight-month suspended sentence. The couple will be monitored by a social worker.

Prosecutor Anat Rosenberg said the couple committed a series of appalling acts against all their children, but especially against their 18-year-old daughter.

The prosecution said the parents put the girl's head into a toilet, locked her in a small room for several days, and prevented her from going to school.

She also was not given warm clothes in the winter, was given

very little food, and was forced to shower in cold water.

The parents are charged with beating their other children regularly and locking them in the bathroom. Most of the acts were committed by the mother.

In the verdict, Rodlevi noted that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Israel signed in 1990, says that a child should be given the opportunity to express her opinion in every legal process which directly or indirectly concerns her.

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'Cook's visit drives EU against Israel'

By DAVID HARRIS
and news agencies

BRUSSELS - There is wall-to-wall anger in the European Parliament and increasing pressure to suspend economic and association agreements between the European Union and Israel following British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook's visit, according to a leading French socialist politician.

"A week ago I would have said that only 10% of politicians here would have voted for such a move. However, [Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu's insult has unlocked hatred."

He said that next week's agenda in Brussels would be dominated by the issue and called on the US to join Europe in criticizing Israel over the Cook affair and the deadlocked peace process.

"Europe shouldn't try to behave alone, and should convince the US it is playing with fire."

A senior official in the European Commission said that while his body is attempting to remain objective, "[The European] Parliament is becoming very negative concerning the EU-Israel association agreement. The union is making its view on settlements far more vocal. The reaction of the Israeli government was predictable," he said.

France yesterday gave its full support to Cook in his diplomatic tiff with Israel over his visit to the Har Homa housing project in Jerusalem.

"We supported the decision of Mr. Cook to go to that site, and we

regret the incidents that happened on the visit," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Yves Douriaux.

"We do not understand the reaction of the Israeli prime minister on this occasion, nor his attitude towards Mr. Cook," Douriaux told a daily news briefing. "It is perfectly legitimate that the EU continue to express itself against the settlements, the stopping of which is a necessary condition for the resumption of the peace process."

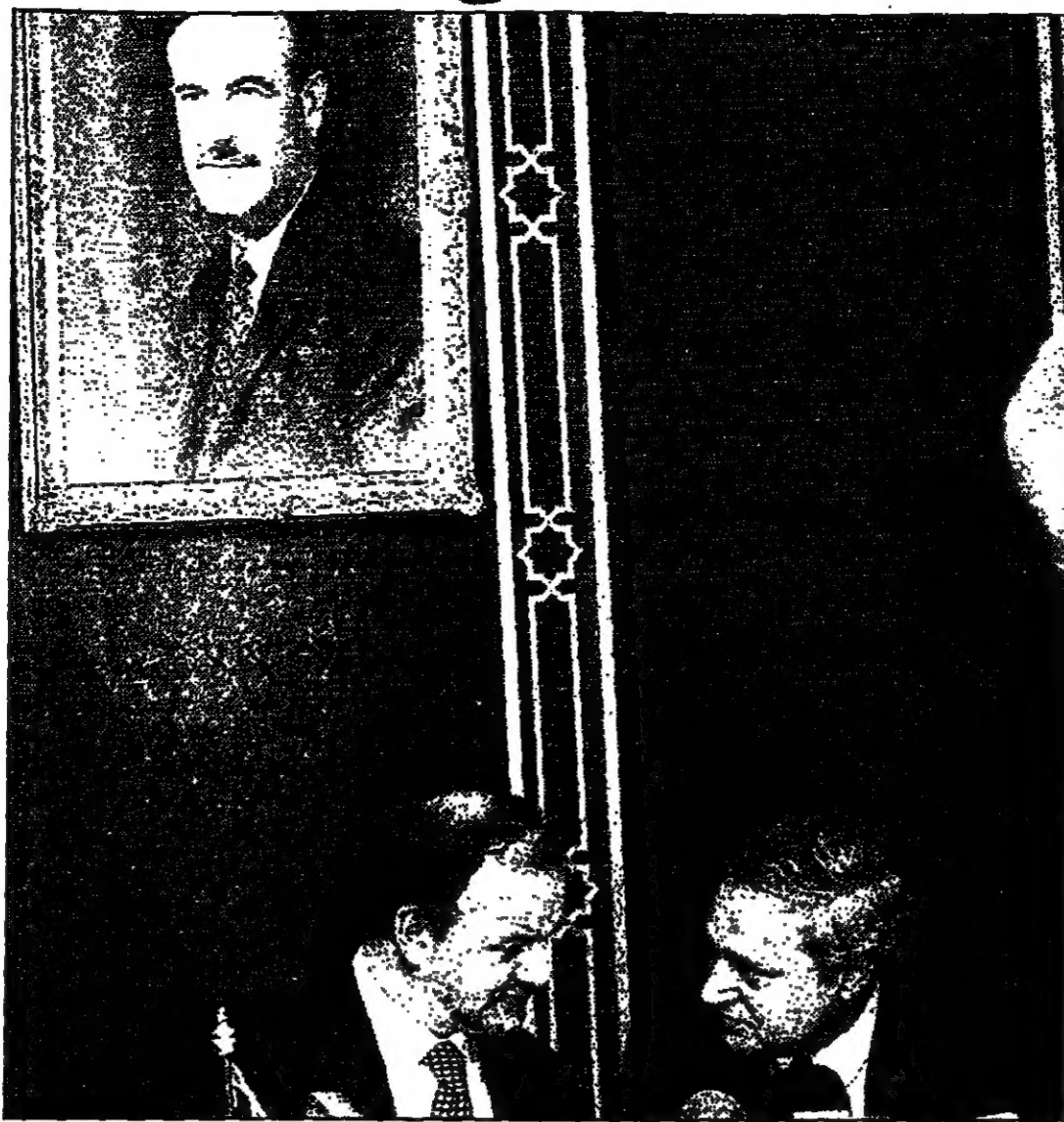
The British press, meanwhile, was split over the incident, with some criticizing Israel and others lambasting Cook.

The *Evening Standard* newspaper said Israel was being ruled by "wickedly irresponsible men" and that it had become part of Israeli rhetoric "to accuse those who question its policies of trespassing on its legitimate security interests."

The *Times* of London, however, blamed Cook for what the newspaper said was an "unequivocal disaster." It said Cook had hurt the European Union's chances of becoming a Mideast player by tackling one of the most explosive issues in the region without sensitivity.

Cook has "now precipitated a major international incident that will severely embarrass Tony Blair as he prepares to visit Israel next month," the paper said.

"The prime minister has secured a solid relationship with Benjamin Netanyahu so far. He will need to deploy all his undoubted charm to undo the damage that Cook appears to have done."



UK Foreign Secretary Robin Cook (left) speaks with his Syrian counterpart, Farouk Shara, in Damascus yesterday.

Knesset storm follows Cook visit

By LIAT COLLINS

The visit by British Foreign Minister Robin Cook stirred up a storm in the Knesset yesterday, where it was discussed in a series of motions.

The first to bring up the issue was Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Chairman Uzi Landau (Likud), who told the House:

"If the British foreign minister were to stay another day in the country and visit Hebron, continuing in the spirit and style of his visit I would not have been surprised had he joined in the masses in Hebron in burning tires and throwing molotov cocktails. This is what he did in the political field."

"It was a mistake on the part of the British to send to the region a foreign minister lacking in diplomatic experience and without the attributes of discretion and without knowing the [British] Mandate ended 50 years ago," Landau said.

Landau accused him of deliberately creating a provocation and using a policy which rewards and encourages terrorism here and does the opposite of what Cook himself is demanding in North Ireland.

Meretz whip Haim Oron accused Landau of isolating Israel. Oron said Landau believed the

government "could fight over matters of ceremony and procedure and turn the world against us, and then everything would be fine. Then you'll feel comfortable again, Uzi."

MK Abdul Wahab Darawshe (Democratic Arab Party) said the government must change its refusal to make peace.

Alex Lubotzky (Third Way) criticized those opposition MKs who took Cook's side.

"I am particularly amazed at Yossi Sarid's response, who is justifying Cook when the *London Times* criticizes its foreign minister and justifies Netanyahu," he said.

And MK Zvi Weinberg (Yisrael Ba'aliya) expressed similar statements saying, "I think it shames the Knesset that parliamentarians of a sovereign state join a demonstration of support for the foreign minister of a foreign country who came to harm Israel and trample its honor."

Moshe's Benny Elon said the government must in response immediately speed up the construction at Har Homa.

Michael Kleiner (Geshet), who heads the Land of Israel Front, furthered this theme in a mixture of English and Hebrew, saying: "By hook or by Robin Cook a new Jewish neighborhood will be established at Har Homa."

Palestinians: Cook visit a success

By MARGOT DUKOVITCH
and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Palestinian officials declared yesterday that British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook's visit was an extremely successful one and proved to the world that the Palestinians were the ones pushing for peace.

Prior to his meeting with US Ambassador Edward Walker and cabinet secretary Dan Naveh last night, Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat described Cook's visit as a pleasant surprise.

Erekat said Palestinians were taken aback when Cook told Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in Gaza that he wanted to embrace him and said, "you are the man who carries the peace process on his shoulders and we are here to support you."

The outright support for Arafat, said Erekat, only proved that the Palestinians were on the right track and highlighted Israel's position as one of neglect by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his

government.

"Despite the difference between British and European policies and positions, they spoke as one tongue when relating to the Palestinians and the future of the peace process and gave an international legitimacy to the signed accords," he said.

"Never before has the international community given such wide support to the Palestinian people and their right to an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital," he added.

The meeting with Walker and Naveh last night would focus on the civilian issues, Erekat said, but hinted that the Palestinians were not optimistic that any agreement will be reached. Jamil Tarifi, the PA minister responsible for civilian affairs, accompanied Erekat to the meeting.

Erekat charged that until Israel makes decisions on the issues discussed, no agreements would be reached.

"We have said countless times that these issues don't need discussions but a political decision

by Netanyahu. Once he decides to give the green light then the issues will be implemented according to the agreement," he said.

"However, Netanyahu has opted for a game of procrastination and expects the Palestinians to bow down and agree to issues that are not specified in the agreement," he said.

Meanwhile the PA representative at the United Nations, Dr. Nasser Kidwa, told the UN General Assembly on Tuesday night that the peace process was breathing its last breath because of Israel's refusal to implement the signed accords.

Arafat will meet with the Austrian Chancellor Viktor Kleiman in Gaza on Friday, according to Arafat's aide, Nabil Abu Rudeineh. He added that Kleiman will also visit one of the refugee camps in the Gaza Strip.

Abu Rudeineh said the Palestinians are demanding that the US take a more active role and force Israel to adhere to the signed agreements. Yesterday's Palestinian Legislative Council meeting was cancelled because of the bad weather.

By SARAH HONIG

Labor chairman Ehud Barak yesterday criticized British Foreign Minister Robin Cook for "arrogance and flawed judgment," saying that "in view of Cook's behavior I thought it best not to meet him."

It was "highly improper on Cook's part to turn all this into a political demonstration in conjunction with the Palestinians," Barak continued. "Har Homa is no settlement. There is not a shred of a doubt regarding our right to construct there. Har Homa is unequivocally within the Jerusalem city limits and all Israeli governments upheld our right to build there, including Labor governments. A united Jerusalem under full Israeli sovereignty is the very heart of the Israeli national consensus."

Barak added that "while I often do not subscribe to [Prime

Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu's decisions, I think that this time he acted properly in his reaction to Cook."

However, Barak later changed his version somewhat.

The first change came after Labor MK Haim Ramon protested bitterly the notion that Barak now judges it not good for Laborites to meet with Cook. The fact is that he sent me and [MK Yossi] Beilin to meet with Cook on his behalf."

Barak indeed later admitted he had no appointment to meet with Cook and there was no deliberate decision on his part to avoid meeting with him.

"It was a mix-up of schedules which resulted in no appointment being fixed, but the way things went eventually with that visit I thought it was not a good thing to meet with him."

The second change in Barak's

tone came after Likud MK Uzi Landau warmly received Barak's initial statement and said it "evinced integrity when the opposition leader backs the prime minister on this issue."

In his later statements, Barak threw in criticism of Netanyahu, blaming him for "an amateurish handling of the situation. But beyond that, his policies are weakening Jerusalem. Never has Orient House been as central, never have [head of Palestinian Preventive Security] Jibril Rajoub's men acted so freely in Jerusalem and never was there so much illegal construction there."

Beilin corroborated Ramon's contention that it was Barak who sent him and Ramon to convene with Cook. Both met him for breakfast at the British ambassador's residence in Ramat Gan yesterday.

That meeting came under fire

from the Likud, which charged that "it is appalling to see opposition representatives siding as they do with someone who so demonstratively challenges Israel's rights in Jerusalem."

Beilin reported that most of the meeting with Cook was devoted to the Lebanon issue. They asked the British foreign minister to try to convince his Syrian and Lebanese interlocutors about the wisdom of consenting to an Israeli unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon.

Meretz's Yossi Sarid took Barak to task for "rising to this government's defense on Har Homa. Construction there is wrong and it isolates us in the world. The man guilty for our mounting isolation in Europe is none other than the present prime minister. I can express nothing but profound sorrow for what Barak saw fit to say."

Austrian chancellor to launch talks with PM

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Austrian Chancellor Viktor Klima was expected to engage in intensive political talks today with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in advance of his country's assumption of the European Union's presidency in June.

Yad Vashem is the first stop on his itinerary after which there is a scheduled meeting with President Ezer Weizman, a working lunch with Netanyahu and a formal dinner with him as well.

Netanyahu met yesterday with the President of Cyprus, Glafcos Clerides, who is in Israel on a private visit. The Cypriot leader escorted his wife here for medical treatment.

Several of the issues that sparked controversy during Tuesday's talks with British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook were reflected in Netanyahu's

remarks to Clerides.

"Israel is not interested in debate or polemics," Netanyahu said. "Israel stands on several principles, the preminent one being a unified Jerusalem." He said Israel will negotiate with the Palestinians "with American assistance," hoping that there also can be European help "which would be desirable to the extent that it is responsible and friendly."

In a reference to the backing given Cook by British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Netanyahu said, "I expect that as a prime minister he always will strengthen his foreign minister. I always strengthen my foreign minister."

Netanyahu denied that Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky carried a letter from him to President Clinton. Instead, he said Sharansky will deal mainly with Iran's buildup of unconventional weapons.

UN attempts to reinforce Geneva Convention

By MARILYN HENRY

In a vote that mixed apples and oranges, the UN General Assembly has passed a resolution condemning Israeli settlement activity and recommending a conference to enforce the Geneva Convention in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem.

But the UN cannot convene a Geneva Convention. In an odd twist, while numerous nations are on record - in their roles as UN members - for supporting a meeting of the convention, they have avoided voting for such a meeting in their roles as Geneva signatories.

The assembly vote Tuesday evening was 120-3. Micronesia and the US joined Israel in opposing the measure. Tuesday marked the fourth time since April that the assembly convened in an emergency session over the building project at Har Homa.

Switzerland has suggested that Israel and the Palestinians meet in camera, under Swiss auspices, in advance of some Geneva Convention-related panel. That led to speculation that the peace process was about to be reignited. Although Israel said it supports

the Swiss proposal, it was downplayed by Arab delegations and the PLO observer at the UN, who sought the broader Geneva Convention with international representation.

The assembly resolution recommended that the "High Contracting Parties" to the Geneva Convention hold a conference on measures to enforce the convention in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem. In other words, UN members were voting to recommend to themselves that they vote in yet another forum to have a Geneva Convention.

Switzerland, the depository of the convention, was again asked to prepare for such a conference, including the convening of a meeting of experts by the end of April.

"This is a recommendation that is not binding," said the spokesman at Switzerland's observer mission to the UN. He called the resolution an "expression of political will," but one without force.

"We have two legal frameworks - that of the General Assembly and another for the Geneva Convention," he said yesterday.

Apparently, under the Geneva Convention, no conference is likely because the 188 parties to the 1949 convention cannot reach a consensus about holding one, and the convention does not specifically have rules on how to proceed when the parties cannot reach an agreement.

Jay Bushinsky adds: The director-general of the Foreign Ministry, Eytan Bentsur, blamed the Swiss initiative's collapse on the Palestinian side, saying yesterday that it was they who expressed "non-readiness to comply."

He contended that the Palestinians had hoped to use the Swiss-sponsored forum to their political advantage and that when this prospect faded "they preferred to go back to the General Assembly to strengthen their position." Bentsur attributed the Palestinian action to the realization that the Swiss "were not willing to politicize the humanitarian organizations" in which they are involved, including the International Committee of the Red Cross in this category.

"I think we succeeded to the extent that the Swiss were not willing to play that game," he said.

Police arrest 'Analyzer' computer hacker wanted by FBI

An 18-year-old Israeli hacker known as "Analyzer" and wanted by the FBI for breaking into the Pentagon's computer system was arrested yesterday by the Israeli Police. Channel 2 said the super-hacker had broken into the Knesset computer system.

Police spokeswoman Linda Menuhin said the unnamed hacker is accused of "infiltrating computers in Israel and the United States." He is to be brought for remand today. She said several accomplices had also been arrested.

Analyzer is suspected of being the mentor of two teenagers in the US who have been interrogated by the FBI in connection with hacking into the Pentagon's computer system and university research computers.

A Defense Department official has said the Pentagon intrusions appeared to have been aimed at

systems that contained unclassified personnel and payroll records. He described the Israeli hacker's work as the most organized and systematic attack the Pentagon has seen to date.

Analyzer and the two teens from Cloverdale, California apparently penetrated computers in February using a weakness that already had been identified by computer security teams.

In an interview with the Internet magazine *AndOnline* before he was caught, Analyzer said the penetrations were innocent and that he even helped the targets - patching the holes he found.

Analyzer's penetrations have been reported at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's plasma energy lab and at a series of military installations, including the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, as well as at other universities and NASA.

(AP)

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
and JDC-Israel
extend heartfelt condolences to
Binyamin Chernofsky
on the loss of his mother
RUTH CHERNOFSKY ז"ל
May you be comforted among the mourners
of Zion and Jerusalem

I deeply mourn the passing of my beloved wife
KATIA MICHAELI
The funeral has already taken place.
Please refrain from condolence visits.
Her husband: **Simon Michaeli**
and family

On the first anniversary of the passing of our beloved
JACOB RECANATI ז"ל
we will gather in his memory
on Sunday, March 22, 1998, at 5 p.m.,
at the Trumpeldor Cemetery, Tel Aviv.
The Recanati family

Handwritten note: "ד' מר 1998"

Police hold off on settler warrants

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Police in Hebron said yesterday they would hold off applying for arrest warrants for settlers who have ignored summonses for questioning about last Friday night's riots in the town.

Judea and Samaria police spokesman Opher Sivan said the decision came after two more settlers showed up at the Hebron police station for questioning yesterday - making seven out of 25 summoned for questioning. He said more settlers are expected to show up today.

"They are tricking us but as things have calmed down in the city we prefer to hold off applying for warrants," he said.

Settlers who allegedly stormed the Abu Snehin neighborhood in the Palestinian section (H1) of Hebron last Friday night were summoned for questioning for violating a closed military order. Palestinians claimed the settlers smashed car windows and damaged property before being forced to leave by IDF soldiers.

The settlers claimed they were unaware of the order and were protesting the fact that shots were fired at their community earlier in the day - the third incident in a week. They denied reports of violent behavior.

Their actions led to an outbreak of rioting and several IDF soldiers and border policemen were injured when scores of Palestinians stoned them. Eight Palestinian journalists and some 20 Palestinian rioters were wounded by rubber bullets fired

by soldiers.

Leaders of the Hebron Jewish community called on residents summoned for questioning to obey the order, however, several said they would refuse.

There were reports of sporadic stonethrowing at IDF troops in the city yesterday, but the troops ignored the stonethrowers and the Palestinians eventually opted for snowballs.

In the Gaza Strip yesterday, hundreds of Palestinians took part in a Fatah-organized demonstration in Rafah to protest the deaths of three Palestinian workers at the Tarkumiya checkpoint 10 days ago and the deadlock in the peace process.

The demonstrators also protested the death of 13-year-old Samir Karamah on Tuesday in Hebron.

Clutching stones in one hand and olive branches in the other, demonstrators burned an effigy of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the flag of Israel amid chants of "Allahu akbar - God is great."

A Fatah leaflet distributed by demonstrators said, "If Israel is ready to throw peace into the sea, we are ready to throw peace to the depths of hell."

West Bank Fatah leader Marwan Barghout said his movement was once one of the staunchest supporters of the peace process, but now there is growing disenchantment. Barghout warned that the tone of the people is changing and is leading to an uprising, "but has not reached the boiling point yet."

Annan to Israelis and Palestinians:

Work with US to obtain peace

By JAMAL HALABY

AMMAN (AP) - UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan yesterday lauded US efforts in the Middle East peace process and urged the Palestinians and Israel to work with American officials for a permanent settlement.

"The mediator for the Palestinian-Israeli issue is the United States and I support very fully their efforts and I encourage the parties to work energetically and constructively with them in search for a durable peace," Annan said.

Annan did not comment on Europe's efforts to expand its role in the Middle East peace process, and he seemed more interested in scotching rumors that he was starting his own initiative to bring peace to the region.

He said that during his nine-day regional tour, he will "talk to all the parties concerned about the peace process, about the need for peace in the region."

"I will encourage them to have the courage, the vision and the wisdom to make the compromises necessary to attain peace and to work with the mediators in making this possible," he added.

Annan had said Tuesday that he was not bringing a negotiating package on his Middle Eastern tour, adding his role was to encourage peace between Arabs and Israelis.

His remarks yesterday came during a tour of two Palestinian

refugee camps in Amman with Crown Prince Hassan.

Government officials said Hassan's talks with Annan also covered ways to restart the peace talks and to make Israel comply with UN Security Council resolutions concerning territorial withdrawals.

"Jordan stressed the fact that the UN should apply the same standards while enforcing its resolutions, in other words to be as firm with Israel the way it is with Iraq," said one senior government official. He added that Hassan and Annan also discussed ways to ease the suffering of Iraq's 22 million people, straining under sweeping sanctions imposed following the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Annan said he was content with the infrastructure in the two refugee camps that he visited - the Hussein Camp in the heart of Amman and the Heiten Camp, 27 kilometers northeast of the capital.

The two camps are homes to around 120,000 people. They are run by the UN Relief and Works Agency. "I have always worked with refugee issues and I will continue to work on it with more vigor," Annan said, vowing "to bring greater assistance [to refugees] and to focus more attention on the question of refugees."

The fate of refugees - among other crucial issues - is to be determined in negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.



UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan (left), his wife Nane and Crown Prince Hassan tour the Hussein Camp for refugees in Amman yesterday.

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

Cooking trouble

Hebrew press headlines declared a diplomatic crisis with Britain following British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook's meeting with a Palestinian representative at Har Homa and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's reaction to Cook's provocation. The press commented on the conduct of both sides.

"Cook stuck a diplomatic knife into Netanyahu when he met [Palestinian Authority Chairman] Yasser Arafat and Peace Now before [Defense Minister] Yitzhak Mordechai and the Prime Minister's Office," writes *Ma'ariv's* Chemi Shalev, adding that Cook "twisted the knife when he shook the hand of the Palestinian parliament member at Har Homa."

Shalev adds that in response Cook received a public slap in the face from Netanyahu when the latter decided to turn the incident into an existential and real threat against the future of Jerusalem. He said Cook set a trap and Netanyahu swallowed the bait.

Yediot Aharanot's Shimon Schiffer, on the other hand, writes it is Cook who fell into Netanyahu's trap. "The foreign secretary's provocative behavior has fallen like a ripe fruit into Netanyahu's hands," writes Schiffer, who explains that this can stop the undesired involvement of the Europeans in the negotiations with the Palestinians.

As for the long-term effects, "a conflict with the European community can lead to economic sanctions that would damage [Israel's] interests."

SLA's future

The report about negotiations between Israel and France over the evacuation of top SLA officials if the IDF withdraws from the security zone "is an essential step toward the possible withdrawal," writes *Ma'ariv's* Yosef Lapid.

He who adds that providing the soldiers with shelter does not ensure the safety of the southern Lebanese civilian population, which will be prone to vengeance from the Lebanese Army and Hizbullah.

"Ensuring the safety of this population is the top moral test for the IDF and the Israeli government," he states. Amos Carmel in *Yediot Aharanot* says the need to evacuate is a cause for concern, not only because it is an indication that Israel is considered a contaminating element of those who cooperate with it, but because it indicates that the plans to withdraw are very limited.

Vatican fails to repent

The document published by the Vatican entitled "We Remember: A Reflection on the Shoah," conveying repentance for the Christian role in the Holocaust, received disappointing reactions from the press.

Ha'aretz's editorial states that a decision to turn Pope Pius XII into a Christian saint instead of apologizing for his conduct during the Holocaust completely expunges the apologies in the document.

"It is a great concern that the words of repentance conveyed in the document reflect a trend to freeze the Christian soul searching in a vague, partially incorrect statement, that does not provide an appropriate reply to the great injustice."

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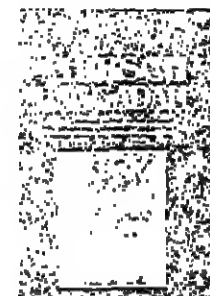
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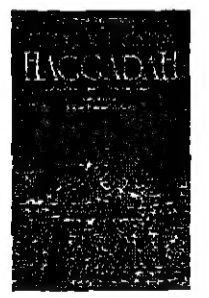
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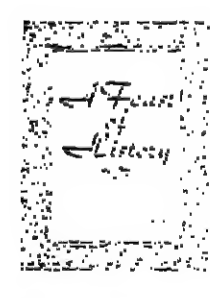
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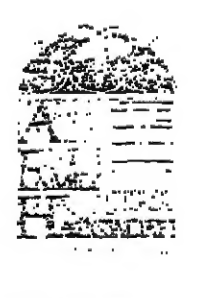
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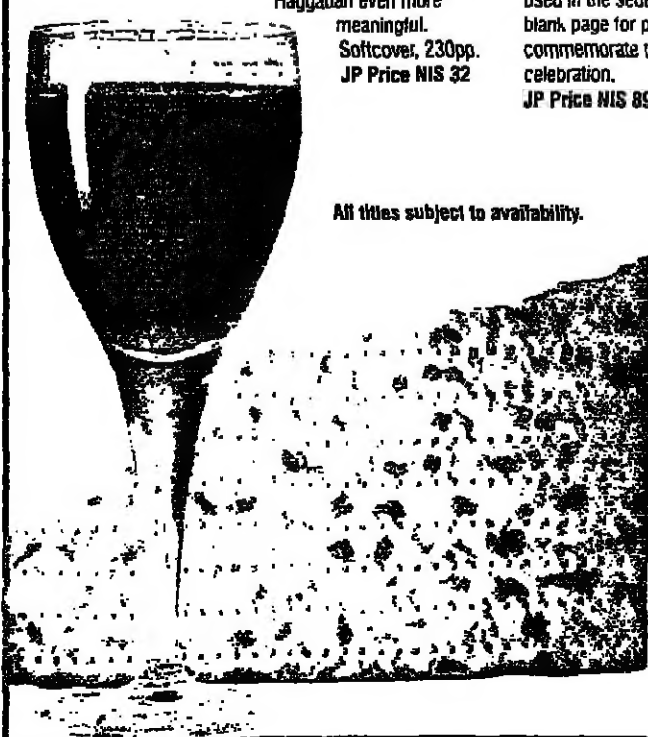
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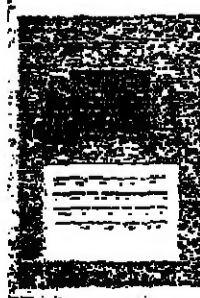
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Weather defers cabinet debate PM to meet Lahad today

By DAVID RUDGE
and news agencies

The last-minute cancellation of the scheduled security cabinet discussion on Lebanon yesterday, because of the bad weather, did not curb the general debate over the issue.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is scheduled to meet today in Jerusalem with the commander of the South Lebanese Army, Gen. Antoine Lahad, about Israel's initiative to withdraw from Lebanon under the framework of UN Security Council Resolution 425 and the future of SLA personnel if the plan is carried out, Israel Radio reported.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk told reporters in Beirut yesterday that Russia welcomed Israel's expressed willingness to recognize Resolution 425.

Posuvalyuk, who met with Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bouez, told reporters at Beirut Airport that he was conveying a message from Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov with ideas for reactivating the peace process.

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook was also in Beirut yesterday, after visiting Damascus where he was given a warm welcome by Syrian leaders.

Cook told reporters that he would prefer to see the implementation of 425 as part of a comprehensive package that would enable progress on the peace process on all tracks and ensure security for all sides. Lebanon was Cook's last stop on his tour of the Middle East.

Labor Party leader MK Ehud Barak, meanwhile, reiterated his proposal for a supervised IDF withdrawal from the security zone, while safeguarding Israel's security interests and those of SLA soldiers and their families.

Barak was due to visit the North yesterday where he was scheduled to talk about the security situation in general and the Lebanon issue in particular, but the trip was deferred because of the weather.

In talks with Labor Party

activists, however, Barak noted that he had proposed several months ago a plan that could facilitate an IDF withdrawal from south Lebanon within a period of three months of its implementation.

Barak's proposal is based on an agreement being reached with the Lebanese which would have to involve US mediation and be backed by the US administration.

Such an agreement would involve the deployment of the Lebanese army into areas vacated by the IDF and include guarantees for ensuring quiet there, as well as the safety and wellbeing of SLA soldiers, their families and residents of the security zone.

If this could be achieved beforehand, a staged withdrawal could begin starting with areas farthest from Israel's border.

Barak suggested that a pullout could be conducted first in the Soujoud region, in the northeastern sector of the security zone, with a time scale to test the strategy on the ground before implementation of the next phase of IDF redeployment.

Meanwhile, the Grapes of Wrath monitoring group yesterday completed a 24-hour meeting to discuss a complaint lodged by Lebanon into recent IDF/SLA shelling of Hadatha village, north of the zone, in which a number of homes and a mosque were damaged.

Israel's delegation maintained that the incident was in direct response to firing by Hizbullah which had originated in the village, in breach of the understandings.

The five-nation committee, at the end of its discussions at UNTF's headquarters in Nakoura, called on Israel to take all necessary steps to avoid hitting civilian property.

The committee reminded all the combatants, including Israel and its allies and Lebanese armed groups, of their commitments to honor the understandings that were reached in April 1996 at the end of Operation Grapes of Wrath.

Shahal (finally) resigns from the Knesset

By LIAT COLLINS

Labor MK Moshe Shahal ended a 27-year parliamentary career yesterday with a series of send-offs in the Knesset Speaker's office, the plenum and among his party colleagues. He is scheduled to be replaced by Taiba Mayor Rafik Haj-Yihya, who is next on the Labor list.

Although the resignation was not a surprise — he announced he would be leaving at least twice last year — it was unusual enough to allow MKs to forget to squabble for a while and to unite in praise for the long-term parliamentarian.

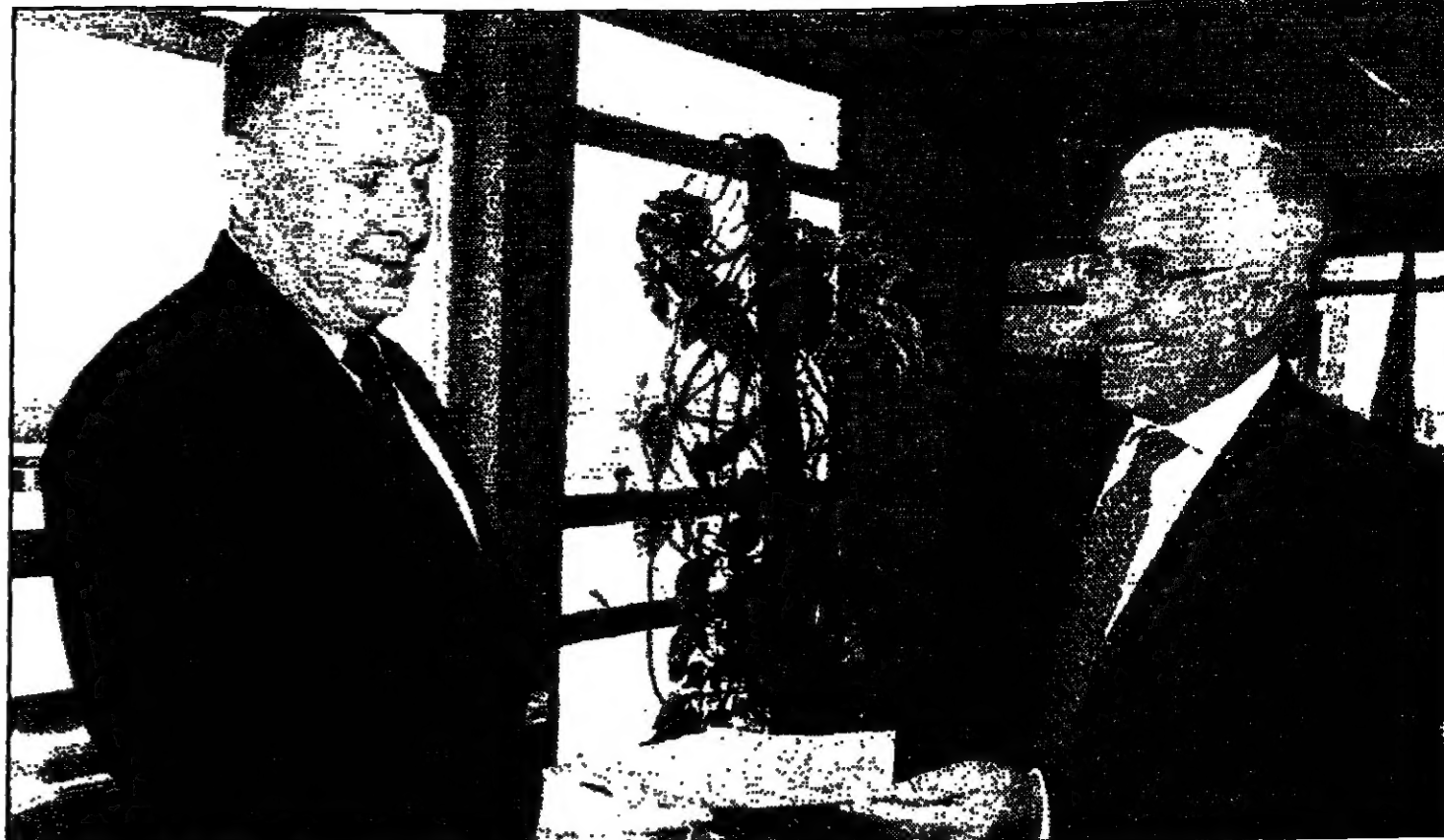
Speaker Dan Tichon accepted the neatly handwritten letter of resignation by expressing regret and recalling when the young Shahal had first come to the Knesset. He paid tribute to Shahal's long and fruitful career.

Shahal, a lawyer by profession, had served as energy, communications and police ministers in previous governments.

Shahal said he had always promised to leave at a time people were asking him to stay "and not the other way around."

A petition initiated by Likud MK Ruvlin calling on him to remain was signed by scores of MKs from nearly all the factions.

Rivlin described Shahal as an "outstanding parliamentarian" and joked that the large number of MKs who turned up yesterday



Labor MK Moshe Shahal (right) hands his resignation letter to Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon in the Knesset yesterday. (Isaac Herzli)

despite the snow had probably come to see him off.

Judging from the speeches by Shimon Peres, Yossi Sarid and David Levy as well as his own farewell address, it seemed the

Knesset will miss Shahal more than Shahal will miss the Knesset.

Shahal said he had liked the Knesset and the work there but over the years the parliamentarians had forgotten how to listen to

each other and how to carry out a cultured political debate.

He also had a parting wish. "One day, when I am watching Channel 33 [which broadcasts live from the Knesset], I hope and

pray to see the Syrian president and Lebanese president standing at this podium...[and] to see your hands outstretched to endorse the final arrangements with the Palestinians," he said.

Meat Law passes final reading

By LIAT COLLINS

The so-called Meat Law, extending indefinitely the ban on the import of non-kosher meat, passed second and third reading yesterday 66-17 with 4 abstentions.

Unlike in the first reading at the beginning of the week, Labor MKs were allowed to vote according to their conscience.

Eight voted with the coalition, ensuring it got more than the necessary 61 MK majority required as part of the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation. The law does not affect the sale of non-kosher meat in Israel.

The four-year ban was originally passed under Yitzhak Rabin's government and the extension was passed by the House this week before it expired.

The Labor MKs who supported it were: Raphael Eidi, Rafi Elul, Shlomo Ben-Ami, Micha

Goldman, Eitan Cabel, Shalom Simhon, Ephraim Oshaya and Haim Ramon.

Labor's Ophir Pines, Yossi Beilin, Yael Dayan and Eli Goldschmidt voted against.

Pines said Labor's decision not to impose party discipline and demand opposition to the bill "sold out its voters. Changing the stand every day on the Meat Law issue and the final decision shows a weakness of ideology on the part of some of us who apparently haven't learned the lesson and continue to bow down in the hope of winning the support of the haredi parties," Pines said.

Tsomet whip Eliezer Zandberg, the only coalition member to vote against the bill, said it hurt the values of the Basic Law. "It's kosher but it stinks," he said.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said the vote was the result of "non-kosher parliamentary blackmail."

Knesset Law Committee Chairman Hanan Porat (National Religious Party) said he opposed religious coercion and said the bill is merely the continuation of the policy of preventing the country being flooded by cheap, non-kosher meat.

Ramon explained his vote by noting the original law had been passed by Labor with Meretz and that it simply preserved the status quo which has existed since the establishment of the state.

"It has nothing to do with the haredi parties," he said. "I believe in the status quo and don't want to change it in favor of either the secular or the religious."

The law involves extending the four-year ban on other cases in which legislation conflicts with the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation, but following promises to Yisrael Ba'Aliya and the Third Way the government announced that within this period the ministries would act to make the laws in keeping with the Basic Law.

Yisrael Ba'Aliya MK Yuri Stern said he would initiate the establishment of a parliamentary body to supervise progress on this.

Meanwhile, Meretz yesterday filed a no-confidence motion on "the deepening diplomatic and economic crises."

The bill is scheduled to be heard on Monday, during the last week of the Knesset's winter session.

"With the end of the winter session, Israeli citizens deserve getting rid of the government, which is making an effort to block the arrival of a diplomatic springtime," said Meretz whip Haim Oron.

However, the no-confidence motion is unlikely to muster the necessary 61 votes to topple the government.

Teacher acquitted of lesbian sex charge

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

A female teacher from the center of the country was acquitted by Tel Aviv District Court yesterday of charges she had consensual sex with a female pupil.

The teacher, 43, whose name was barred from publication, was acquitted due to reasonable doubt. The court criticized the pupil's father, who filed a false complaint with the police three years ago and forced his daughter, then 14, to make false statements to the police and the court.

The judge noted the teacher treated the pupil, whose parents were in the process of getting a divorce, as though she were her own daughter. Among others, the teacher took the pupil out, called her regularly, and expressed a great deal of warmth

and kindness towards her.

In the verdict, the judge said the father forced his daughter to say she committed sexual acts with the teacher and that the teacher was a lesbian who had relationships with "thousands" of girls. The father said he followed the teacher and also hired a private investigator to follow her.

On leaving the courtroom the teacher, who was represented by attorney Sassy Gez, said she is pleased the ordeal is over. "I am glad everything is behind me and that three very difficult years have come to an end. I don't think anyone can know how a person who has spent 30 years devoting her life to children can feel after this," said the teacher, who resigned her post when the police began investigating her.

Pope invites Jews to continue dialogue

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Just days after a sharply criticized Vatican report on the church and the Holocaust, Pope John Paul II called yesterday for Jews and the Roman Catholics to continue their dialogue with "renewed openness and trust."

The pontiff spoke at his regular general audience, which was attended by members of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs and the US Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs. They are on a joint visit to Rome.

"I hope and pray that our interreligious dialogue will continue in a

climate of renewed openness and trust," John Paul said.

His comments came hard on the heels of a long-awaited Vatican document on the Holocaust. The Roman Catholic Church's failure to offer a clear apology for its actions during the Holocaust in the document angered and disappointed many Jewish leaders around the world.

In the report, promised by John Paul over a decade ago, the Vatican expressed regret for the failure of some Christians and Christian nations to speak out against the Nazi genocide, but it singled out wartime Pope Pius XII for praise.

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Snow catches capital by surprise

By DAVID RUDGE

Jerusalem and other high places were laid low yesterday by snow that caught many local officials unawares.

More snow was expected to fall in the capital and surrounding hilly regions last night as well as on Mt. Hermon, the Golan Heights and Galilee peaks.

Thunderstorms and strong winds, with gusts of up to 70 kph, swept other parts of the country, with the rain turning to hail on several occasions.

The forecast is for the cold, wet weather to continue today before gradually dying out tomorrow. Saturday is expected to be partly cloudy, but dry, although still colder than usual for the time of year.

Schools were closed in Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, and many roads in both regions were blocked for several hours in the morning.

IDF snow plows helped clear the roads on the Golan, although access to the Mt. Hermon ski site remained closed throughout the day.

Jerusalem-area industrialists claimed that snow-blocked roads had cost them up to NIS 15 million in lost production because 10,000 employees were unable to reach their factories.

Some essential workers were ferried to factories in fleets of jeeps hired by companies, in order to keep production lines operating.

Agriculture in particular has been badly hit by the freak weather that began with fierce sandstorms at the



A car slogs through bumper-high water on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem yesterday, as the morning snow melted during the day.

beginning of week and later turned into wintry conditions.

Hundreds of farmers have submitted claims for compensation to the Agriculture Natural Disaster

Insurance Fund for damage to field crops, flowers, greenhouses and fruits, as a result of the strong winds, hailstorms and heavy rain. A particularly strong blast of

wind, described by witnesses as something like a twister, hit Kibbutz Hukok situated on the banks of Nahal Amud, north of Lake Kinneret.

Members of the kibbutz said the wind lifted roofs off some buildings and caused extensive damage.

NEWS

in brief

Be'er Tuvia residents block main road

Dozens of Be'er Tuvia residents briefly blocked the town's main road with tractors and agricultural equipment yesterday morning, causing major traffic jams.

The residents were protesting the government's failure to pave a bypass road so that vehicles travelling between Kiryat Malachi and Ashdod would not cut through the town.

The heavy traffic endangers residents, especially children, and there have been numerous accidents, the protesters said. Police removed the protesters shortly after they blocked the road.

Irim

Ethiopians can register to marry at more offices

Ethiopian Jews wishing to marry will now be able to register at one of 18 regional offices around the country, the Religious Affairs Ministry announced yesterday.

Until now, all Ethiopian immigrants who wished to marry had to register at the office of Rabbi Yosef Dana in Tel Aviv. The ministry said that each of the regional offices would be staffed by a rabbi of Ethiopian origin.

Haim Shapiro

Parents beat sanctions with independent school trips

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Negotiations among the Secondary School Teachers Association, the Treasury and the Education Ministry over the school trip issue may still be deadlocked, but hundreds of youngsters have been able to enjoy their trips anyway due to ongoing, independently organized outings being coordinated by the Israel Parents Association.

"We've been able to minimize the damage caused by the teachers' sanctions," association chairman Shai Lachman said yesterday.

While initially, teachers had launched strikes and threatened other action against schools from where the independent trips left, Lachman said that in recent weeks "no action has been taken at all" against such schools.

Principals in many cases are "turning a blind eye" or even encouraging the trips, he said, and teachers are taking days off without pay to accompany the youngsters, he said.

Indeed, Secondary School Teachers Association chief Ran Erez said yesterday that while the teachers had initially opposed the trips organized by the parents

because they undermined their sanctions, "afterwards, we said: 'Fine. Let them deal with this and see what we do, and appreciate the teachers' efforts on these trips, and hopefully they'll look at it differently. Sure it hurts our sanctions, but we don't want to fight the parents. The parents aren't our enemy.'"

However, Erez denied that any teachers from his organization had gone on any of the trips. Erez said the number of trips are limited, and many pupils don't go on them because they don't want to go on trips accompanied by parents.

The last attempt to resolve the school trips dispute ended with a labor court ruling that the teachers were legally allowed to use their sanctions and could not be forced to stop them.

The court was supposed to issue a new ruling regarding the matter soon. Meanwhile, Lachman, the Society for the Preservation of Nature in Israel, Egged, the Youth Hostels Association, the National Parks Authority, and theater arts groups have been running independently organized outings for the pupils since the end of February.

Plane lands safely after lightning strikes

Lightning struck an Isair plane en route from Eilat to Tel Aviv and Haifa yesterday, but the pilot succeeded in landing the aircraft safely at Tel Aviv's Sde Dov Airport.

The pilot, Giora Oren, who is also the airline's director of operations, said that the lightning hit the rear of the aircraft as it was descending to 6,000 feet, preparing to land at Sde Dov.

Despite damage to the edge of the tail, Oren reported the incident to the control tower and carried out a normal landing. He took the remaining passengers on to Haifa in another plane. Haim Shapiro

Rubinstein: Allocate part of Western Wall Plaza to non-Orthodox

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein has proposed allocating a portion of the Western Wall Plaza for non-Orthodox Jewish religious services.

Speaking at the Reform movement's Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem on Tuesday night, Rubinstein said the area should be a prominent one, although not adjacent to the Wall itself.

"It should be a place where one can see the Wall and be seen from the Wall," Rubinstein said.

He added that the area should be about where a Conservative group attempted to hold a prayer service on Tisha Be'av. The worshippers had tried to return to an area at the back of the Western Wall Plaza, where they had held a Shavuot service.

The police had moved the worshippers in the middle of the Shavuot service, telling them that the police could not protect them from the haredi protesters who surrounded them. The police did not allow the Conservative group to begin their planned Tisha Be'av service.

Rubinstein, speaking on religion and state at a symposium in memory of late MK Zalman Abramov, who was chairman of the board of HUC, described his proposal as part of a general outlook favoring compromise. In the same spirit, he also expressed support for the proposals of the Neeman Committee and revealed that before the Chief Rabbinate Council had rejected the proposals, Rubinstein had written

to Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau and Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliyahu Bakshi-Doron, urging them to accept the proposals, despite their misgivings about a joint conversion institute which would have included representatives from all the religious streams.

The proposals of the committee, headed by Finance Minister Yasskov Neeman to solve the issue of registering Reform and Conservative converts as Jews, would have maintained the Israeli tradition of the supremacy of the Chief Rabbinate while at the same time giving recognition to the religious streams which were prevalent abroad, Rubinstein said.

"It respects the internal tradition and also gives the streams a part. Everyone feels that he has gained something," Rubinstein said.

Reacting to Rubinstein's proposal for a special area of the Western Wall Plaza to be reserved for the non-Orthodox, Rabbi Uri Regav, director of the Reform movement's Israel Religious Action Center, said his movement welcomed the suggestion.

He said the Reform had always been ready to compromise and had, in fact, appealed to the Religious Affairs Ministry and the Justice Ministry for permission to pray in the rear of the plaza.

"Our groups have always been respectful of the sensitivities of the worshippers at the Wall," Regav said. "They just could not tolerate being denied the opportunity to worship anywhere in the Plaza."

Water experts smile at return of wintry weather

By DAVID RUDGE

The belated blast of winter is helping to boost the depleted waters of Lake Kinneret and giving rise to hopes of saving the ski season on Mt. Hermon.

The level of the Kinneret was three centimeters higher yesterday morning compared to the previous day - one of the biggest increases in the space of 24 hours throughout the winter.

The water level at the end of last summer was only 90 cm. above the low level mark and had only risen by a further 80 cm. until yesterday, due to below average rainfall in the North and long dry spells.

The increase would have been even less, but Mekorot decided to drastically reduce pumping from the lake into the National Water Carrier during March.

Officially, the decision was taken to enable maintenance work to be carried out on the pumps and other installations. The work, however, would undoubtedly have been deferred if the level of water in the Kinneret had been higher.

The level yesterday was still nearly 2.40 meters from its maximum high mark of 208.90 meters below sea-level. Nevertheless, the recent heavy rain brought smiles

to officials at Mekorot and the Lake Kinneret Authority.

"There's still a shortfall, but it's raining and snowing now and we are smiling. If the rains were to continue for another two weeks like this, the Kinneret would fill up nicely," said a Mekorot official.

There has also been a steady flow of water into the country's two other main storage resources - the coastal aquifer and Yarkon Tanimim underground reservoir.

"Both of the underground reservoirs are in pretty good shape, and the southern sections of the coastal aquifer, which were depleted, are in a better state than they were because of the policy of diverting water into them," said the official.

The wintry weather also brought relief to the management of the Mt. Hermon ski site, which has been deprived of its most important asset - snow - for most of the winter.

Around 130,000 people had visited the site so far this winter, compared to over 300,000 for an average year, and management was worried that income would not cover overheads and investments made to improve facilities.

The site opened for winter sports on January 27, almost a month later than usual, but there was only sufficient snow for skiing for less

than 20 days, said general manager Menachem Baruch.

"February was dry and we had effectively closed the site because there was no snow. Now, at last, we can smile again and announce that the site will reopen for skiing and winter sports by this Shabbat at the latest," said Baruch. "With this latest snowfall, which is forecast to continue today, there should be enough to keep the slopes covered for several more days of good skiing and maybe enable us to keep the site open until Passah."

Man sues wife for smoking at home

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

A man suffering from a serious lung disease has filed a NIS 5 million suit in the Tel Aviv Family Court against his wife for exposing him to tobacco smoke for over a decade.

The 40-year-old man, whose name was barred from publication, alleges that his illness is due to the large amounts of cigarette smoke he was exposed to at home. He claims that he was forced to leave his home out of fear that his health would continue to deteriorate if he continued living there. The couple is in the middle of divorce proceedings.

The man, who was determined

100 percent disabled four years ago, is currently waiting for a lung transplant in the US.

According to the man's petition, his wife smokes about 70 cigarettes a day. Before they were married, some 13 years ago, he asked her to refrain from smoking near him. Instead, shortly after they were married, she refused to be considerate of his health and even would "blow smoke towards him."

"The doctors treating him specifically asked the defendant not to smoke in the presence of the plaintiff and explained to her again and again the danger to him," according to the petition.

The wife has not yet filed a statement of defense.

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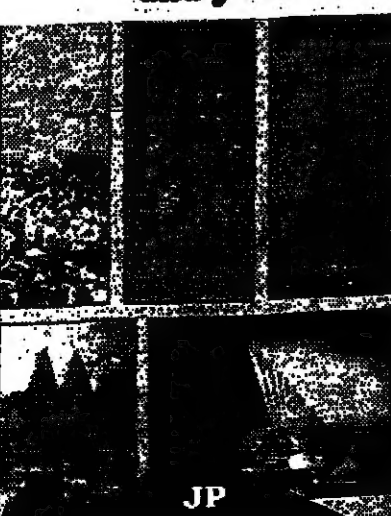
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Pisgat Ze'ev East	44 Meir Gershon	Shopping Center	Near Clean Li Laundry
Pisgat Ze'ev Central	39 Hashisha-Asar	Entrance to Kupat Holim Maacabi	
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Givat Shaul	13 Beit Hadus, behind Mondial Halls	Industrial Zone	Bar Shvuk Vehafatza
City Center	8 King George	Steinmetzky	
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Gilo	800 Zvia Veyitzhak	Shopping Center	Tambour store
Gilo	580 Ha'odem	Yosef's Minimarket	
Armona	19 Ein Gedi	Shukri Supermarket	
Armon Hanatziv	Dov Gruner	Delek Filling Stn.	
Armon Hanatziv	22 Kashani	Near kindergartens & grocer's	
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Palestinian myths

Prophecy is not dead in the land of prophets. But, alas, the Palestinian leaders' failure to heed their own accurate fears contributed to the peace process's current breakdown.

Even two years before Binyamin Netanyahu was elected prime minister, many Palestinian Authority leaders identified the problems that were going to sabotage progress. Yet their inactivity and, on one critical point, misunderstanding of Israeli politics, have cost them dearly.

Specifically, PA leaders understood:

1. They must restrain Hamas and other violent groups from attacking Israel in order to consolidate the PA's authority, expand the territory Israel ceded it, and ensure that negotiations advanced.

2. If the PA failed to stop terrorism, those in Israel who opposed the process and territorial compromise would take power.

3. This challenge was all the more critical because neither the Arab states nor the US would help the Palestinians.

Ultimately, however, most Palestinian political leaders and intellectuals accepted the myth that it didn't matter who ruled Israel because they saw the two main parties as basically identical. As a result, they ended up facing a government far more hostile to their aspirations.

PA Justice Minister Fehil Abu Melden, in an April 14, 1995, radio interview, insisted the PA must disarm radical groups. "I am afraid these weapons could become uncontrollable and thus promote the law of the jungle." Like most moderate arguments among Palestinians, he justified this step as required to stop Israeli plots for undermining the PA and negotiations.

Still, he correctly noted, "There cannot be a dual authority in which everybody has his own rifle." A Palestinian state could only be built if it was "governed by the rule of law." We should not give Israel the excuse it needs to go back on the agreed redeployment of its troops in the West Bank.

Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Nabil Shaath remarked the next day, "The armed opposition is not committed to the peace agreement we have adhered to." Whatever complaints the Palestinians had about Israeli actions, "Now we have to be committed to peace until peace is established (unless) we all agree that this peace is no longer possible to reach our goals."

At any rate, Shaath pointed out, no help could be expected from the Arab states "whose terrible condition" of weakness and disunity "drives one to tears." The PA wanted to avoid conflict with Hamas or with Israel, Shaath explained. "What is required is a commitment from Hamas to stop all their acts of violence, even for just one year.

for us to truly discover whether there is any hope of developing this peace into an independent Palestinian state, or whether the Israelis want nothing but stalling and procrastination.... We want Hamas to commit to stopping military operations."

But Hamas did not agree. Representing Hamas at a meeting in Gaza, Mahmoud Zahar told Shaath in person that no part of Palestine could be given up. The PA, he stated, should not arrest or put on trial Hamas members, try them in court, or even try to stop Hamas's attacks on Israel.

Speaking at a major Gaza rally on April 16, Arafat rejected this viewpoint. The PLO, he explained, signed an agreement with Israel as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

"We must respect that agreement," Having fought harder and longer than anyone, the PLO would not be intimidated by Hamas's attempt at "one-upmanship." Palestinian extremists, Arafat warned, would only help those in Israel "interested in obstructing this agreement" by giving them "the pretext of so-called security" to avoid Israel's commitments. If they challenged PLO leadership, "our Palestinian people know how to teach them manners and subject them to accountability."

While Arafat usually kept much of his commitment to black terrorism, he often held back to avoid domestic problems, conflict with Hamas or the appearance of being an Israeli puppet. His failures, especially in early 1996, led to massive Israeli casualties and increased Israeli skepticism about the PA's credibility, thus contributing greatly to Netanyahu's election.

Shaath predicted the result, though his immediate complaint was directed against prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's government: "Israeli stalling has been [concealed] by the operations carried out by the Palestinian opposition."

More such attacks would mean "the cessation of the peace process and not taking the West Bank back ... denying the Palestinian people their daily livelihoods, keeping the prisoners in prison, and supporting those Israelis who reject the peace process and attempt to circumvent it. We cannot expose them unless we all are committed to the peace process."

The moderation and pragmatism of most PA leaders has often been underestimated in Israel. But Shaath rightly warned back in 1995 that if the Palestinians could be credibly depicted as "the aggressors" in violating agreements, negotiations would become deadlocked. This is precisely what has happened.

The writer is a senior resident scholar at the BESA Center for Strategic Studies and editor of the Middle East Review of International Affairs.



Barry Rubin

Police suicides plague post-apartheid era

By TINA SUSMAN

PRETORIA — After 18 years as a cop, Lota Simon Mathare had received just two pay raises, seen his house firebombed and shot at, and lost his best friend, another policeman, to suicide.

Struggling financially and frustrated at work, he too became suicidal, but he didn't want to leave his wife and two young daughters. "I thought the best thing was to kill my kids and their mother, and then myself," Mathare said matter-of-factly as he wife, Lillian, sat nearby. "I had it all worked out in my head."

About the only remarkable part of Mathare's story is that he didn't go through with his plan. Nearly 1,000 South African police have killed themselves — sometimes also murdering their families — since 1991, after the end of apartheid reined in the once-omnipotent police service and forced its members, both black and white, to adjust.

Suddenly, being white was no guarantee of promotion or pay raise.

Being black was certain to incite bitterness among white colleagues who felt victimized by affirmative action. Beating confessions out of people was no longer acceptable and police, who for decades had been used primarily as enforcers of apartheid, were being expected to fight crime.

The upheaval, combined with the grueling job of policing one of the world's most violent countries while being disdained by a public that still resents police for the past, has created a stressed-out force with a suicide rate a dozen times higher than the national average, according to the police department.

Most suicides involve black officers such as Mathare, 42, in part because they dominate the 161,000-member force and tend to be in the poorly paid lower ranks. But white police suicides have increased since 1994, and both races appear equally prone to the anxieties and frustrations of working in a generally low-paid, high-risk job that commands little respect.

"In the past, it was easy to label

police as racist and oppressors or, in the case of black officers, collaborators with the apartheid government. To a large extent they were, but now that we're moving toward a new system, it's incumbent on society to recognize that police are not made of concrete, that they have emotions and feelings as well," said Danny Titus, the director of police training at Technikon SA, a vocational college that trains thousands of police officers each year and will soon introduce stress-management courses.

There are only 90 psychologists for the entire force, and the fear of being labeled "weak" deters many officers.

Constable James Mostert, a towering 23-year-old whose father was a cop and who has been a policeman for five years, is a good example. Mostert is part of the Flying Squad, the rapid-reaction unit that responds to emergency calls. Four nights a week he straps on a bulletproof vest, arms himself with an automatic pistol and machine gun, and patrols from sunset to sunrise some of Johannesburg's deadliest neighborhoods.

"I've seen more in my life than most people see in a war," Mostert said. "In the last six months of 1994 I lost four friends on the squad to murder. I wanted to get counseling but I knew it would go on my record and make it harder to get promoted, so I didn't."

Mostert described a recurring dream that haunts him: He fires at an assailant who won't drop dead. In real life, Mostert recalls drawing his gun in 1995 to fire at the legs of a fleeing robbery suspect, a practice widely used and accepted under apartheid. "I'm chasing this guy and about to fire, and this lady watching the whole thing started chasing me and hitting me with her bag, telling me I can't do that," Mostert said. "You can't win." He and his partner are white Afrikaners who are bitter over what they say is favoritism toward blacks in the police service, but they say they can't quit. "Today in South Africa, if you're white you don't get work," Mostert said, though the unemployment rate for blacks is much higher than for whites.

Like most black cops, Mathare

joined the force because it was one of the few jobs with a steady income a black man with little education could get during apartheid. In his township of Soshanguve, north of Pretoria, some blacks viewed him as a supporter of apartheid. One night they fired bullets into his bedroom window. Another night he found his house in flames, firebombed. These incidents were before the end of apartheid, but he says the attitudes haven't changed.

Mathare said the white police psychologist he spoke to couldn't empathize with a black man living in a down-trodden township, struggling to care for his family on a salary of 1,200 rand (\$240) per month, and encountering racism from white colleagues and resentment from black neighbors. Instead, he got help from his personal physician, who diagnosed post-traumatic stress syndrome, put him on anti-depressants, and persuaded him to quit the force three months ago. Otherwise, he says, he probably would have carried out his murder-suicide plan.

(Newsday)

VMI's female cadets reach Rat finish line

By PETER FINN

LEXINGTON, Va. — Six months of punishment gave way to joy Monday on a steep, red clay hill on the grounds of Virginia Military Institute.

The 384 members of the school's first coeducational class had their faces pushed down in mud at the foot of the slope. They were screamed at one last time. Then they pushed and squirmed and clawed their way up the 30-foot hill, which had been turned to greasy mud by fire hoses.

At the top, breathless but exhilarated, the cadets fell into the congratulatory arms of the senior class, their mentors and tormentors.

In recent years, the climb up that hill has marked the end of VMI's Rat Line, the moment when the school's freshmen celebrate their release from a months-long ritual of abuse and intimidation.

This year's ceremony provided closure for another reason. Much to the relief of VMI officials and students, the first chapter in the military school's assimilation of women has ended without major controversy.

VMI has survived women, and 23 women have survived VMI.

The women endured the spit-filled harangues; the forced marches; the push-ups demanded on a whim, sometimes as many as 300 in a day; the nighttime workouts called "sweat parties"; and the dozens of other daily humiliations in barracks that remind freshmen that they are what they are called here: rats.

For its part, VMI's administration avoided the kind of disaster that occurred in 1996 at The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina, where the clothes of two of the first female cadets were set on fire. Seven of the 30 women who enrolled at VMI in

August have since left the school, but none complained of harassment or unequal treatment.

"I think we have come through rather well," said VMI Superintendent Josiah Bunting III. "We had a group of very determined, capable young women. We had a well-prepared student leadership. We had a good year."

Before the US Supreme Court forced them to admit women, VMI officials had long insisted that such a thing was not possible — that women could not fit into the school's harsh environment. They waged a six-year battle with the Justice Department to keep a female student from ever walking under Stonewall Jackson arch.

Many of those who fought VMI over that issue said they remain suspicious of the school administration's commitment to treat women fairly and its statement that coeducation has gone smoothly.

"It would be foolhardy at this point to make any judgment about how VMI has been doing," said Marcia Greenberger, co-president of the National Women's Law Center, which is monitoring the assimilation of women. "VMI hasn't been very open in describing its practices." Greenberger complained that VMI's required quarterly reports to a federal court in Roanoke, Virginia, have been skimpy. She said she expected the school to provide more information on its disciplining of female students, its integration of women in extracurricular activities and its plans to hire female professors and staff.

The Justice Department declined to comment on VMI's performance. The freshmen women were not available for interviews Monday but will speak to the news media Tuesday, VMI officials said.

To be sure, VMI had its share

of disciplinary problems this school year. A male cadet said he was violently hazed by upperclassmen in barracks, and the incident is being investigated by state police. A female cadet was suspended for striking an upperclassman. And a male and a female cadet were disciplined for sexual contact.

But what Bunting and others had feared most — an allegation of sexual harassment that would discredit the school's efforts to accommodate women — did not occur.

At the same time, the core of the VMI freshman experience remained intact, several school officials, student leaders and alumni said.

They said the changes caused by the presence of women — shades on the dorm windows, jewelry policies in student handouts, skirts in the panoply of uniforms — were mostly cosmetic.

The bar was not lowered, and women proved themselves equal to the school's unforgiving traditions, said Col. James Joyner, a 1967 VMI graduate who is commandant of cadets, a kind of dean of barracks.

The Rat Line was more physical than 90 percent of the Rat Lines I've observed," Joyner said. "The rat mass is more militarily prepared and better-trained than others I've seen." Bunting said it is too early to gauge the long-term effects of coeducation and noted that VMI will not be a wholly coeducational institution until women are present in all classes, from rats to seniors. Next year the school expects about 40 freshmen women, and by the time this year's freshmen are seniors, Bunting said, he expects about 130 women in barracks.

"Whether we were lucky and had an exceptional pioneering group this year, I don't know," he said. "These women were tested, and they met the chal-

lenge. Will next year's group do as well? We'll see."

The year of women at VMI began tentatively. Many students thought that the first few weeks of the Rat Line were not sufficiently demanding. They complained that the administration, fearful of bad publicity, was monitoring the upperclassmen so closely that the rats were not getting the usual punishment.

The Cadet, the student newspaper, rang with enraged condemnations of the new, soft VMI.

"There was super-sensitivity," said Stephen C. Fogleman, a member of the Class of 1971 and president of the Alumni Association. "The administration was omnipresent. In the first two weeks, there were two picnics and one sweat party. [The Rat Line] wasn't measuring up." Fogleman and a number of students, including senior class president Kevin Trujillo, said the Rat Line got harsher and eventually was as intense as in past years.

But even in Monday's ceremony at the hill, the administration's caution was evident, some students said. Officials did not want to hose down the area too much, fearing cases of hypothermia in the 36-degree weather. Some seniors threatened not to participate if they did not get more water, which they eventually did.

Some alumni continue to believe that VMI has become a diluted and changed experience simply because women are in barracks.

"The absolute and stark egalitarianism of the place is gone because when you put men and women together, you are looking at your classmates for protective purposes, if that's a nice way to put it," said Thomas Moncre Jr., 46, a 1973 VMI graduate.

"The administration has done a marvelous job of declaring success, but I believe it's only a

matter of time before VMI gets into making accommodations, if it hasn't happened already."

Moncre said the school's decision not to suspend the man and woman caught having sexual contact is a stark example of slipping standards. "But I guess," Moncre said, "if suspension is going to be the penalty for that, it will be remarkably difficult to maintain a student population at VMI in future years."

But several VMI seniors said female rats quickly melted into the mass of freshmen, as curiosity about them and reticence toward them faded.

"After a while, you're not thinking 'female rat,' you're just thinking 'rat,'" said senior Jon Spitzer, president of the Rat Disciplinary Committee.

Despite the grim visage VMI shows the world, rats are expected to demonstrate their unity with some theatrical flair and more than a little humor. Women blended into that tradition, too.

A month ago, for example, all the rats — led by a woman — took off their white belts and hooked them outside the barracks to form a "98" in honor of the senior class. Then they doused the belts in a flammable liquid and tried to set them afire as they screamed for the seniors to emerge from their rooms. The fire didn't take, but Trujillo said the freshmen's spunk and unity showed him and other seniors that the rats were nearly ready to wear the black belts of a VMI class.

Members of the Class of 2001 marched proudly Monday into the courtyard where they had tried to burn their belts a month ago.

Trujillo stepped forward to lead a series of class cheers, or "old yells," as they call them here. Then he formally dissolved the Rat Line with the magic words: "You are released."

(The Washington Post)

AGENDA

Continued from Page 1

What's more, at this very moment, the biannual strategic talks between Israel and the US are taking place in Washington, with the Israeli delegation headed by David Levy, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's adviser.

However, at the end of last week, there were growing indications the administration intends to present its plan for bridging the gaps between Israel and the Palestinians before Pessah, much to Jerusalem's dissatisfaction.

Cooking the dove

The visit by British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook should have softened up Israel slightly, hinting that Europe would merely contribute to our international isolation, and putting the cat among the pigeons before the American announcement.

But it soon became clear that Cook had spun totally out of control. Washington has always been cautious in approaching the issue of Jerusalem, on the assumption that when the two sides are sufficiently involved in the peace process, it will be easier to find a solution that will satisfy both parties.

When it transpired that the inexperienced Cook intended to begin his visit to Israel with a tour of Har Homa, accompanied by Faisal Husseini, the red alert went out not just in Jerusalem but in Washington, too.

Last weekend, the Americans warned the British that walking the Har Homa tightrope would be likely to make the entire visit boomerang against progress in the peace process. They realized that

the trip would anger Israel and raise Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's expectations.

In fact, work on the infrastructure at the Har Homa site ended weeks ago. Without making an issue of it, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has, for all intents and purposes, frozen construction. The Arabs realized this, the Americans were informed, and Israel has been preoccupied with other matters which almost removed it from the agenda.

Still, it would seem that politics and cynicism go hand in hand, not just in Israel but in other places, too. Cook ignored the warnings. He was looking to make headlines and he certainly got them. He embraced Arafat and refused to visit Yad Vashem, but did not forget to lay a wreath on the memorial for the Moslem martyrs who fell in the battles for Jerusalem.

As a result, Netanyahu's popularity, compared with that of Ehud Barak, has soared in the polls. He is not fooling around when it comes to Jerusalem. He canceled the dinner planned for the visiting foreign secretary, signaling in the direction of Washington. His request that the Americans postpone presenting their plan now has a greater chance of acceptance.

Those concerned for the "wholeness" of the city are now more likely to see construction at Har Homa being renewed (as of yesterday, the "Land of Israel Faithful" are absenting themselves from Knesset votes to press demands to begin building).

The prime minister has once again proved that his hand of cards always includes a joker — once in the form of Arafat, once as Monica Lewinsky, and this time as

Robin Cook.

"Non-belligerency" with the Palestinians

Palestinian and American sources say that National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon's channel of strategic talks with the PA has become blocked due to leaks. Both parties have admitted that this is a great pity. Arafat has indicated he has faith in Sharon and believes that a deal with him is a deal. He told the Americans as much.

Sharon and Palestinian Legislative Council Speaker Ahmed Qurei have not discussed the permanent-status agreement, but have talked about the probability that, sooner rather than later, these talks will reach an impasse.

Sharon's view is that at this stage, the most that can be obtained from Arafat is a non-belligerency agreement. Efforts to reach a full peace will fail due to Palestinian demands on Jerusalem, on the right to return, and borders.

He believes that if negotiations reach an impasse, both sides should try to get the maximum possible out of the process before it collapses totally. In such a case, he says, Israel must retain more than 60 percent of the West Bank as part of any settlement, to secure the eastern front and the border with the Palestinian entity.

This would leave the Palestinians with total control (now called Zone A) over less than 40% of the territory and accounts for Sharon's repeated warnings that no more than 9% of Zone C should be transferred to Zone A as part of the first two redeployments.

As a rough guess, the warning zones constitute approximately

1% of the West Bank; the Taninim-Yarkon-Tel Shoket aquifer another 2%-3%; the plain surrounding Ben-Gurion Airport, from east to west, vital as a defense against shoulder-borne missiles, another 2%. In Sharon's view, American demands to transfer 13.1% of the territory now to the Palestinians endanger these critical areas.

Lebanon is like the West Bank

Sharon's statements on withdrawal from Lebanon are not unrelated to his approach to the West Bank. Sharon is concerned that the Netanyahu-Mordechai proposal will lead Israel to discussions on withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

He believes that withdrawal from Lebanon must be dissociated from negotiations with the Syrians. He is therefore of the opinion that Israel must clearly define the rules of the game and withdraw from Lebanon gradually, continuously examining the behavior of the Lebanese Army, in line with UN Resolution 425.

In his view, a withdrawal in stages will enable Israel to return to areas from which the terrorist organizations operate, without entering into full-scale war.

Yossi Beilin's proposal is different. He is looking for an international consensus backed by the US, Europe, and Japan which will result in pressure on Damascus to stand aside.

This week Beilin received an E-mail message of encouragement from a highly influential Lebanese official whom he knows personally: "Keep up the pressure. If you shilly-shally, the plan for withdrawal will become more difficult to implement due to Syrian pres-

sure on Beirut." Beilin is convinced that his proposal can work. Meanwhile, none can deny the fact that his activity has once again placed the Lebanese issue at the top of Israel's political agenda.

Rajoub's and Goldman's orphans

On Monday noon, when the press conference given by Jibril Rajoub, head of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service, and Yasser Abed Rabbo, PA Minister of Culture, Arts, and Information had ended, a few workers remained behind in the large hall opposite the Hebron Municipality to stack the chairs, together with the family members of the men killed in the accident at the Turkumiyah roadblock: Raleb Rajoub, Mohammed Sharawna, and Adnan Abu Zneid.

Just a few moments previously, the hall had been full. Journalists, TV crews, public officials from the West Bank and three Israeli MKs — Salah Tarif, Rafi Elul, and Micha Goldman — had all surrounded the families.

Leaving the bereaved families, Rajoub took the MKs to Aliya Hospital to visit the wounded.

"Afterwards," Goldman told me, "we slaughtered a sheep, ate lunch, and at 3:30 we left for Jerusalem." The mourners did not eat lamb.

The widows and orphans were left without their men-folk, without any social security. Bereavement does not stop at roadblocks. The Palestinian Authority has no social services to provide such families with an income.

Jibril Rajoub had earned his headlines: "If any settler dares

enter the Palestinian autonomous area with the intent to do harm, he will not leave alive," he said.

Yasser Abed Rabbo called for international protection for the Palestinians.

Elul, who several weeks ago complained to reporters after being refused admittance to Rabbi Yitzhak Kadourie's home, now gave an interview at Rajoub's side. Goldman tried to avoid the cameras, but attracted humanitarian headlines in the Israeli press. The two of them sat with Tarif in the front row during the press conference organized by the Palestinian propaganda office, and did not utter a sound.

What would seem more natural than an MK going to comfort mourners who have just lost their nearest and dearest in a tragic accident, like the one which occurred at the Turkumiyah roadblock? And why does the presence of politicians make it seem so cynical?

Second Hebron scene

On a joint patrol of Abu Seneia Hill — which overlooks the city center and homes of the Hebron settlers — two officers, one Israeli and the other Palestinian, with two jeeps and a few soldiers each, sit together, sip tea, and watch the activity in the city below.

Two officers, one who completed his officer's course at IDF Training Base No. 1, and the other who was trained in Algeria, are now jointly implementing the Hebron Agreement.

When we climbed up the hill, we had not expected to meet the Israeli-Palestinian patrol. They were not interested in giving interviews, but did offer us some tea. They seemed to be friends, telling jokes and talking about the future. A picture seemingly taken from

the world of the absurd, but it appears so real and natural. I asked them whether they would be capable of firing at one another in the event of conflict; whether the visions of the Western Wall Tunnel could recur. They didn't answer, but to an onlooker it seemed almost impossible. They are not politicians.

Shahak's Law

The Ministerial Committee on Legislation approved a debate on the "cooling off" law proposed by Rubi Rivlin (Likud), Yossi Beilin (Labor), and Dedi Zucker (Meretz). Under this proposal, the chief of staff or any other officer with the rank of brigadier-general upwards, any judge, ministry director-general, chief of police and the like must wait a year from the time they leave their post before entering politics.

Rivlin made it clear that the law is necessary due to the political comments made by the outgoing chief of staff.

Although according to the original proposal, the law may only take effect from the year 2000, it may well be assumed that during the legislative process it will be applied outright, in view of Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak's forthcoming retirement. Shahak is perceived as a threat both by Netanyahu and the leader of the opposition.

The joke in the Knesset cafeteria this week was that Meretz would be satisfied if the law takes effect in the year 2000, the Likud would like to apply it now, and Labor would like it to be retroactive (if only it could have been used against Barak).

Whoever said that cynicism and politics don't go hand in hand?

Jerusalem 1998

Albanian said killed in Kosovo demo

PRISTINA, Serbia, (Reuters) — An ethnic Albanian was killed and several others were wounded in Kosovo yesterday when Serb police opened fire on demonstrators, the Albanian-run Kosovo Information Center reported.

It said the incident occurred in Pec, some 80 kilometers west of the provincial capital Pristina, as US special envoy Robert Gelbard arrived in the capital for talks with Albanian leaders.

The information center, run by the leading ethnic Albanian political party LDK, named the dead man as Qerim Murici, adding that an unknown number of demonstrators were injured.

The duty officer at Pec police station, reached by telephone, said he had heard nothing of any incidents during yesterday's demonstration.

Around 40,000 Albanians also staged a peaceful demonstration in Pristina yesterday calling for an end to police violence and independence for the province, but there were no incidents.

Gelbard was meeting leaders of ethnic Albanians, who make up 90 percent of the province's 1.8 million population in a bid to persuade them to start talks with a Serbian government delegation on the province's future.

Earlier yesterday, the Albanians rejected the latest of a series of invitations to meet the Serbian team, insisting they were only prepared to discuss independence and wanted an outside mediator, both rejected by Belgrade.

The international community also rules out independence for Kosovo but is pressing Serbia to restore the province's autonomy, abolished by Belgrade in 1989.

Serbia has one more day to begin talks with Kosovo Albanians or face tough new sanc-



Ethnic Albanians protest in downtown Pristina yesterday.

tions, including a freeze on Yugoslav assets abroad, in response to a police crackdown in Kosovo earlier this month in which some 80 people died.

The US State Department says major powers have agreed on the text of a UN resolution imposing an arms embargo on Yugoslavia. Diplomats at UN headquarters in New York say it could be adopted

this week.

US Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, talking to reporters in Sofia after talks with Bulgarian Prime Minister Ivan Kostov, accused Belgrade of summary executions and ethnic cleansing in Kosovo and said the viability of the Yugoslav state depends on its ability to solve the crisis.

Gelbard is expected to warn Albanian leaders that their refusal to meet the Serbian government risks backfiring if Belgrade succeeds in blaming their refusal for the lack of progress.

Today French and German Foreign Ministers Hubert Vedrine and Klaus Kinkel fly to Belgrade. According to French diplomats, they might offer

Serbia cooperation agreements in return for concessions on Kosovo.

The two countries are among five big powers which condemned Serbia on March 9 for its bloody crackdown on alleged Albanian separatists in Kosovo. They threatened tougher sanctions unless Belgrade opened talks within 10 days.

Clinton says Northern Ireland peace within reach

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — President Bill Clinton urged Irish leaders on Tuesday not to squander "the chance of a lifetime" for peace in Northern Ireland, as he began a round of St. Patrick's Day meetings on the British-ruled province.

Seeking to bridge all parties to the Northern Ireland peace process, Clinton met with Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern and a string of officials from Catholic and Protestant parties in Northern Ireland.

"This is the chance of a lifetime for peace in Ireland," Clinton said after a half-hour session with Ahern, saying he would deliver the same message to all the parties.

"You must get it done. It is too late for those who have already been killed by the sectarian violence of the last three decades, but you can do it and you must — now," he said.

Using all the diplomatic and social tools at its disposal, the White House cleared much of the president's schedule for the Northern Ireland meetings, culminating in the annual St. Patrick's Day reception on Tuesday night.

Gerry Adams, leader of the Irish Republican Army's political wing Sinn Féin, had a meeting with Clinton at the White House on Monday evening.

The British and Irish governments hope all-party talks that began last September may yield the outline of a settlement by Easter, ending three decades of sectarian conflict in the British-ruled province that has claimed

Loyalists admit bomb attack

BELFAST (Reuters) — The Loyalist Volunteer Force claimed responsibility yesterday for a failed bombing in Northern Ireland. A caller from the outlawed, Protestant group made the claim in a call to a Belfast television station, using a recognized code word.

"The bomb did not go off due to human error," the man said. "But next time it will."

British forces said earlier they had failed to detect the attack, directed at a St. Patrick's Day party in a club near a Roman Catholic church. Police evacuated the building and nearby homes late on Tuesday while an army bomb disposal officer disarmed the "improvised explosive device" left at the front of the recreation club in the mainly Protestant town of Lame. The club was holding a party featuring a children's Irish dance troupe to celebrate Ireland's national day.

"There was slight damage to the front door but nobody was injured," a police source said.

more than 3,200 lives. The goal of the talks is to set up new institutions respecting both the Protestant majority in Northern Ireland, which favors British rule, and the Catholic minority, which wants the creation of an all-Ireland state.

Ahern said sticking points include creating some form of Northern Ireland assembly, the nature of North-South institutions to aid cross-border cooperation, and changes to Irish constitutional references on uniting the island.

"We're down now to the institutional area," Ahern told reporters after his meeting with Clinton.

Clinton, who is of Irish descent, wore a light green tie and cuff links on Tuesday as he accepted a thick bouquet of Shamrock from Ahern in an annual St. Patrick's Day tradition.

In another annual ceremony,

leaders of the Republican-led Congress invited the president, Ahern, Adams and the leaders of all the other parties to lunch, which was served to them at separate tables covered by green tablecloths.

"We hope that next year all the leaders will be back together ... and will sit at this table and eat together," Speaker of the House of Representatives Newt Gingrich, a Georgia Republican, told the gathering.

The guests included David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionists, the province's main pro-British Protestant party; Gary McMichael of the Ulster Democratic Party; and John Hume of the moderate Catholic Social and Democratic Labor Party.

Clinton met all three on Tuesday evening. He was to meet later at the reception with Lord John



US President Bill Clinton and House Speaker Newt Gingrich flank Irish President Bertie Ahern on the steps of Capitol Hill yesterday.

Alderdice, leader of the Alliance Party which draws support from moderate Protestants and Catholics.

The ceremonial goodwill only went so far on Tuesday, with Adams criticizing Trimble for refusing to meet with him.

"The problem ... for the process is that Mr. Trimble has yet to come to talk to Sinn Féin. We're in the

talks, we're in the same room. The man won't even say hello," Adams told CNN.

"He has said nothing of any value inside the talks and is merely running around with this story outside to distract attention from his own failure," Trimble shot back as he arrived at the White House to see Clinton.

US may help China on missiles

The Clinton administration plans to offer China access to missile technology now barred under human-rights sanctions if Beijing agrees again to end exports of missiles to Iran, Pakistan and other developing states, *The Washington Times* has reported. Senior State Department officials are to present the deal in China next week.

China has promised the US several times over the past six years that it will not transfer missiles and related technology barred under the 29-nation Missile Technology Control Regime. US intelligence agencies have said they broke those promises.

China's entry into the MTCR is expected to meet stiff resistance on Capitol Hill, where Beijing's role in selling missiles, nuclear weapons technology and chemical arms to Third World states has been criticized.

According to a Congressional Research Service report in January, "China has violated certain international agreements, including the Non-Proliferation Treaty and Biological Weapons Convention, and may be continuing to violate its commitment to abide by the MTCR guidelines."

Office of the US Trade Representative, and NASA on March 12.

"In essence, we would offer the expanded commercial and scientific space cooperation with China (in limited areas) if China meets our conditions for joining the MTCR and controlling its missile-related exports to Iran, Pakistan, etcetera," said Gary Samore, a White House National Security Council proliferation official, in the letter.

Under the proposal, China would agree to establish "effective" missile export controls and place "catchall" restrictions on missile sales to "deter circumvention of MTCR controls and to enforce limits on Iran." Beijing also would agree not to transfer equipment or technology banned under the MTCR to any nation that is not a member of the regime, including Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Libya, Pakistan, Syria or Turkey, the proposal says.

Finally, China would formally agree not to assist "ground-to-ground" missile programs in Iran, the proposal says.

A final deal could be signed during Clinton's visit to China, which may take place as early as June. The plan will be presented by Robert Einhorn, deputy assistant secretary of state for nonproliferation, in Beijing at the end of next week. John Holm, director of the Arms

Control and Disarmament Agency, also will discuss the proposal during his visit to China next week.

It is not certain the Chinese will go along with the proposal.

"This is something that is under consideration," said a senior administration official. "It is not a done deal."

The MTCR bans exports of missiles with ranges greater than 186 miles and warheads heavier than 1,100 pounds.

(News agencies)

Papon 'cold-blooded bureaucrat'

By MARILYN AUGUST

BORDEAUX, France (AP) — A state prosecutor told a French court yesterday that Maurice Papon was a cold-blooded bureaucrat who willingly executed the Vichy's anti-Semitic policies to further his career.

As victims' families demonstrated outside the Bordeaux courthouse, Marc Robert delivered his final arguments, portraying the former Cabinet minister as a "brilliant, efficient administrator who had no second thoughts" about applying

the anti-Jewish measures that ultimately led to the arrest and deportation of Jews from Bordeaux.

Papon, 67, is accused of signing the orders that led to the deportation of 1,690 Jews from Bordeaux between 1942-44.

The defendant took elaborate notes, paying close attention to Robert's arguments.

He even cracked a rare, wide smile when Robert said he had been offered juicy promotions by French leader Philippe Petain and his Prime Minister Pierre Laval.

WORLD

in brief

Doctors allow Yeltsin to resume work

Boris Yeltsin's respiratory infection appeared to be easing yesterday as doctors allowed the Russian president to resume working at his suburban residence, officials said.

The Kremlin announced Tuesday that Yeltsin was canceling all events this week due to the infection and a hoarse voice that had been plaguing him since last week.

But Yeltsin was well enough to meet with his administration chief Valentin Yumashev on yesterday at Gorky-9, his secluded residence set in the woods west of Moscow. AP

Bus accident kills some 50 people in Pakistan

A passenger bus careened out of control on the Grand Trunk highway in northwestern Pakistan yesterday and plunged into the Indus River killing as many as 50 people.

Police fear the death toll could rise. Passengers were packed into the brightly colored bus when it lost control while trying to negotiate a curve in the road near Akora Khattak, some 70 kilometers east of Peshawar, the authorities said.

Rescue workers used cranes to try to raise the bus from the frigid Indus River waters. AP

UN helicopter crashes; at least five killed

A UN helicopter crashed on a hillside in western Guatemala, killing at least five people, government and United Nations officials said.

Manuel Almeida, spokesman for the UN mission in Guatemala, said the helicopter crashed Tuesday near the village of Pajul de Aguacatan, about 110 kilometers northwest of the capital. Local firefighters said the four survivors all suffered serious burns. AP

Death toll 17 in building collapse in Bombay

Rescuers found 14 more bodies yesterday raising the death toll to 17 in a six-story apartment building collapse in a northern Bombay neighborhood, police said.

A two-year-old child was still trapped in the debris of the building and feared dead, said V.V. Rao, chief fire officer. The building came crashing down on a shanty township on Tuesday. AP

South Korea probing North Korean talks offer

South Korean negotiators pressed their North Korean counterparts yesterday for details on an offer to hold one-on-one talks, an official said.

"Basically the North Koreans indicated their willingness to have talks, but exactly what that means, exactly when, how, that sort of thing" remains to be determined, said a South Korean official attending four-party peace talks in Geneva.

Among the details to be settled is whether the North-South talks would be under the umbrella of the four-party peace talks, which also include China and the United States, or it would be held outside Geneva, according to the official. AP

Brooklyn has murder-free week

It was a banner week in Brooklyn last week, without a single homicide reported in the former murder capital of the US, where there were once five or six slayings a night.

Police told *The New York Post* that it was the first week in memory that Brooklyn didn't log a homicide.

As of Sunday night, 112 murders had been recorded in New York, compared with 169 in the same period last year. Twenty-nine of the city's 76 police precincts have not recorded a homicide this year; 17 have reported only one.

The new week, however, revealed a grisly death. A woman's handcuffed corpse was discovered, wrapped in plastic garbage bags, in the trunk of a car that had been sold at a Brooklyn sheriff's auction. Marilyn Henry

Observers say Armenian election flawed

International monitors declared yesterday that Armenia's presidential election was "deeply flawed" by voting irregularities, but said the overall result was still valid.

However, they warned that the same scale of irregularities, if repeated, could invalidate a run-off March 30 between the top two candidates: Armenia's current prime minister and its former Communist party boss.

With 93 percent of the vote counted, Prime Minister Robert Kocharian had 39 percent and Armenia's Soviet-era Communist boss Karen Demirchian had 31 percent. Ten other candidates took part, but none received more than 12 percent. AP

Brazilian scientists discover dinosaur bones

Brazilian scientists have discovered the bones of three dinosaurs they say lived 220 million years ago, some of the oldest ever found.

The bones were discovered in the southern city of Santa Maria, about 2,250 kilometers south of Brasilia.

The first was unearthed in January and the other two in February, paleontologist Martha Richter said Tuesday in a telephone interview.

The plant-eating dinosaurs were known as prosauropods and date from the Triassic period, Richter said. AP

Cambodian court sentences dead man

The Cambodian court that convicted deposed co-prime minister Norodom Ranariddh of conspiracy also ordered a 20-year prison sentence for one of his co-defendants, even though he has been dead for almost eight months.

The late Brig. Gen. Chao Sambath, former deputy chief of the army's intelligence department, was one of dozens of Ranariddh supporters executed in the aftermath of the coup last July in which Second Prime Minister Hun Sen toppled Prince Ranariddh. Judge Nhey Thol said the government decided to try Chao Sambath because it was not convinced he was dead.

"The court has no evidence, so we still consider him alive," he told reporters before the trial opened.

Chao Sambath's badly decomposed body was exhumed by human rights workers in Kompong Speu province five months ago. AP

Bar and Bat Mitzvah in Israel

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Mayor Giuliani wants kinder, gentler New York – or else!

By RICHARD O'MARA

NEW YORK — "Toujours la politesse." There's a sign in the window of a papaya-juice shop at New York's 72nd Street and Amsterdam Avenue with that message on it. And more: "We are polite New Yorkers. Bravo, Mr. Mayor. We support your fight for a nicer New York." Then, in smaller type: PLEASE don't Expectorate on Sidewalk. And in even more minute letters: "(Heh Heh)"

It is the "(Heh Heh)" that grabs one's attention. It suggests a variety of responses to Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's current campaign to turn the Big Apple into the Big Pineapple, this latter fruit being the symbol of hospitality and the grace and politeness that attend it.

Is the proprietor of the shop mocking the mayor's efforts to calm the rage of rudeness that since time immemorial has possessed all Manhattanites? Or is he unctuously apologizing in advance for being so bold as to ask that his fellow New Yorkers refrain from spitting outside his shop? Does he think these people

are inured to such pleading? It has always been widely thought that that is the case, that a certain hardness comes over a human being who dwells in this city for any length of time. O. Henry, the turn-of-the-century writer, made a career of depicting the difficulty of life in New York, its unforgiveness, its lack of warmth and mercy. And he did it by revealing those occasional deviations from this grim norm: those rare moments when humanity shone through.

Giuliani is no O. Henry, but he seems moved by the idea that New Yorkers, like people in most other places, get tired of the hard, and want the soft, and that delivering it might pay off politically. And it has.

No sooner was he in office than he gave his police force orders to start cracking down on the perpetrators of what were called the "quality of life" crimes, misdemeanors really.

So the cops chased off the squeegee guys, started running in the panhandlers, rousting the homeless, doing their best to remove the many and varied

annoyances, the evidences of squalor, that seem to be a part of city life, but a bigger part of life in New York than any other city, outside of Calcutta.

The qualities of "hardness" and "softness" are useful terms of measurement. A friend of mine once moved from Baltimore to Philadelphia to work on a newspaper there, now defunct. A year later he told a mutual friend that he felt a vague, uncentered discontent; he lived in a state of perpetual anxiety and didn't know why.

Our friend, who knew both towns intimately, understood. "You moved from a soft city to a hard city," he said. "Your daily encounters, with everybody from the bus driver to the butcher to the waitress in the lunch counter often as not tend to be abrasive. They are like paper cuts, these encounters, and the accumulation of them by the end of the day puts you out of sorts." How many times does one meet with a really rude waitress in a Baltimore eatery?

No one ever succeeded in making Philadelphians soft. So why would Giuliani try such a gambit on the steeled Gothamites?



Mayor Rudolph Giuliani: 'Overwhelming' support for his civility campaign

(Mary Allen Photography)

Because most people like it, they are willing, even eager, to be polite given the chance; the polls show it: A *Daily News* fax poll last month revealed overwhelming

support for the mayor's civility campaign, and a formal survey done February 12 by Quinnipiac College revealed an approval rating of 74 percent for Giuliani among city residents.

Inside every New Yorker, it seems, lurks a Londoner trying to get out. And some of them, possibly even the papaya-juice man, honestly harbor some hope it might work. And who knows? Having spent four days in New York recently, we can report that not once was anyone rude to us. Waiters were routinely pleasant, taxi drivers refrained from snarling. On every side we heard "pleases" and "thank you's." Even construction workers seemed willing to enter into the spirit of the thing.

Two men, lost in their own thoughts, collided with each other on Second Avenue near 25th Street. They apologized effusively, one to the other, patted each other on the shoulders, then moved along. For a moment I thought they were going to exchange phone numbers.

We saw a lot of smiles. Everybody approves of politeness.

But not everybody approves of Giuliani nor of his strategies. His decision to crack down on jaywalking, for instance. Some people think this a bit over the top, that the city has already done enough for automobiles, torn down some fine buildings to accommodate them. But these days if a policeman, momentarily distracted from his doughnuts, sees you crossing a street in the middle of the block he'll rush out and peel off a ticket.

One might ask, what has jaywalking to do with civility? A lot, it seems. At least those who decide on the factors that determine what makes a city a nice place to live have included pedestrian obedience as one of them. This according to Charles Royer, a former mayor of Seattle, who claims this as one of the reasons so many people want to move to the dank metropolis on Puget Sound. In Seattle, people wait for the light, cross at the corner, even in the dead of night, when it's raining, and on an empty street.

The larger question has to do with Giuliani personally. He is no Mr. Manners. Describing him as

brusqué is to do him a favor, and there is a whiff of hypocrisy about his advocacy of courtesy. He has been known to be vulgar, vituperative and imperious.

But isn't that exactly the kind of New Yorkerish attitude needed to whip these people into line? It may seem like a stretch, but there is something about Giuliani that recalls the late Marshal Ferdinand Foch. A rude guest at a dinner given in Denver many, many years ago for the visiting World War I hero declared that there was nothing in French politeness but wind. To which the marshal responded: "Neither is there anything but wind in a pneumatic tire, yet it eases wonderfully the jolts along life's highway."

It is not the witicism that joins the marshal with the mayor, but the similar way they go about things. Foch, when asked to assess his situation during the Second Battle of the Marne, in 1918, replied: "My center is giving way, my right is pushed back, situation excellent, I am attacking."

Giuliani to New York: "Say please. Or else!" (The Baltimore Sun)

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Elusive search for peace

BEYOND PEACE: The Search for Security in the Middle East by Robert Bowker, Peace Research Centre, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, The Australian National University, 211 pp. Price not stated.

By Yosef Yaakov

This comprehensive and deeply researched study is by a senior Australian diplomat and academic, with long service in the Arab world. He conjectures the achievement of a "peace between states" and not just between peoples. His text reflects "contemporary Arab political thought," but he has also included Israeli views. His thesis is that by pursuing "cooperative security" the countries in conflict in the Middle East (or anywhere else, for that matter) will bring peace closer. He urges national leaders to support compromise solutions "within the domestic political environment." He assumes the United Nations will not be a major player in building peace between the adversaries in this region.

By his reading, the odds favor an accommodation with Syria and Lebanon.

His prose does not make for easy reading, even for those who have kept up with the abundant published material on the Middle East conflict.

In a footnote, he cites an Arab scholar's observation on the political impact of poetry in Arab culture: "Arabs want their poets to be political and to avenge them against the outside world." However, he asserts, the acceptance of the leader as final decision-maker is characteristic of all Arab countries. He adds that leaders will not involve third parties in their negotiations unless a clear and tangible benefit is to be gained from doing so. He reinforces the thesis that Arab governments have to deal with political resistance to normalization of relations with Israel within their own ranks.

There is a problem of communication within Arab societies, he avers; much of the press in the Arab world is not free in a Western sense, but neither is it controlled to the point of being a reliable indicator of government thinking. The Arab press, both secular and Islamic, has generally reflected strongly nationalist sentiment in regard to Israel, with condemnation of Israeli policies vis-à-vis the Palestinians and their aspirations being the norm, combined with attacks on the United States for its perceived lack of even-handedness.

He thinks that, in terms of perception of Israelis, Arab commentaries can be of some significance. As for Israel, he quotes American journalist Tom Friedman as speaking of "a deep-rooted Israeli obsession with statehood, as opposed to actual Arab capabilities." Fundamental divisions exist among Israelis over where the physical boundaries of the state should rest. He contrasts what he calls the cautious diplomacy of the early Zionist mainstream with the "exclusionist, strident and implacable nationalism of the Revisionist Zionist movement of Jabotinsky... and maintained (with an added patina of religious symbolism and rhetoric) by his successors in the Likud."



According to the author, peace building aimed toward cooperative security between Israelis and Arabs will also require a faster rate of change in the political culture of the region; this applies especially on the Arab side. Turning to the peace treaty with Egypt, he views the Egyptian side showing little evidence of preparedness to proceed quickly to create and implement detailed programs to give effect to the principles of cooperation contained between the two governments, citing strong resistance among the Egyptian intelligentsia to a commitment to a separate peace and the "inevitable isolation of Egypt" from its Arab milieu and its traditional influence.

The lessons are clear, he states. The pattern of mutual mistrust and suspicion agreements to cooperate is likely to be repeated in other cases unless leaders clearly focus on political and other issues of major contention as part of the peace-building process.

The potential for developing fresh approaches to regional security, however, appears modest in his view. A realistic goal for the peace process may be to lay foundations for relationships within the region that, like those among the European nations, are neither wholly competitive nor wholly cooperative. But his region, alas, is simply not Europe.

The Palestinian track evokes his comment that, without

agreement on core political issues, including Palestinian statehood, and without economic security for ordinary Palestinians, Israel will remain "an enemy state" in Palestinian eyes. Palestinians will demand some form of Israeli recognition of their rights in Jerusalem and this will be resisted equally strongly by Israelis.

The PLO's ability to win support for restraint arose from PLO promises that a sovereign state was in the works, with Jerusalem as its capital, and that somehow the right-of-return issue would be resolved. But Israeli settlement in the territories has shattered that illusion.

Security on both sides will hinge on ensuring that political differences do not pose existential questions for either. Within Israel, relations between Jewish and Arab citizens cannot be separate from the entire issue and a "pluralism resembling (that) of neighboring Arab states" seems inevitable.

He cites one analyst as asserting that "the Israeli obsession with absolute security" vis-à-vis Arab perceptions of Israel as virtually an extension of Western power makes it harder to integrate Israel fully into the region.

From the Syrian perspective, the struggle with Israel is "no mere political or territorial dispute but rather a clash of destinies." The author does not foresee much prospect of any significant change in the relationship between Syria and Lebanon, where Syrian domination is widely resented. Lebanese ties with Israel could weaken Syria's capacity to control Lebanese developments touching on Syrian security and economic interests. Ending the Israeli presence in Lebanon would require an Israeli provision of favorable conditions for the Lebanese Army to assume full responsibility for security in the border area, with Syrian support when necessary. (Clearly this book was published before Israel recently began to talk about withdrawal from southern Lebanon.)

Among Israelis, evidence already exists of frustration at the way in which well-intentioned attempts to establish economic links are prone to be interpreted by critics of the peace process in neighboring Arab countries as evidence of grand designs to dominate the region. In the absence of a regional peace agreement and limits on Arab conventional forces, Israel is fundamentally unwilling to compromise its strategic deterrent capability.

The key states in the Arab-Israeli conflict, the author concludes, rely to a considerable extent on third parties — particularly the United States — in such areas as arms supplies, economic assistance and debt management. All actively court political support from the West.

His advice to Jerusalem: "Israel must avoid the temptation of attempting to force the pace of normalization beyond what the regional traffic can bear." The basic weakness of his entire analysis of the Middle Eastern imbroglio is that it tends to be based on platitudes and known assessments, and the philosopher's Stone continues to be elusive. The author attempts the detachment attributable to an outside observer while, in fact, being an extremely knowledgeable close follower of events, attitudes and trends on both sides of the conflict.

Lying low and holding back

THE WAR AFTER: Living with the Holocaust by Anne Karpf. London, William Heinemann and Minerva. 312 pp. £6.99.

By Dinah Shiloh

In this powerful, autobiographical work Anne Karpf describes, with painful honesty, what it was like to grow up as a child of Holocaust survivors. She writes of being aware that being Jewish in Britain was something to keep quiet about: "Our parents depicted the world as so unsafe that we gathered it was best to lie low and hold back." She also had such a crippling fear of separation from her parents that she was often physically sick when she left them, suffering from severe eczema and scratching herself uncontrollably until she bled all over. At Oxford she felt like an exile. Working at the BBC, she wore a scarf to cover the wounds she had inflicted on herself.

If all this makes the book sound depressing and dark, it isn't. In fact it is often very funny. Faced with an English village church, Karpf felt "as if I'd pupated into a Rabbi, like Woody Allen in *Annie Hall*." And Karpf's story has a happy ending: her eczema receded, she has a successful career as a journalist and medical sociologist, and she's in a stable relationship with two children. "If you'd told me when I was a child that I would have all this," says Karpf, interviewed recently in her comfortable north London home, "I would never have believed you. These things seemed completely out of my reach then."

Karpf is a youthful looking 47, with black hair, piercing eyes and a surprisingly posh voice for someone whose parents were refugees and spoke with thick middle European accents. Interwoven with her account of growing up in Britain, Karpf skillfully tells the tale of her parents. She recorded them talking and edited their stories, told in their own words, into the book.

Her mother, a concert pianist and soloist with the Berlin Philharmonic when she was 18 years old, is a survivor of Plaszow and Auschwitz. She survived the camp because of her piano playing skills: in Plaszow Amon Goeth, the camp commandant, summoned her to play at his birthday party. Karpf's father survived a Russian labor camp. When they came to Britain in 1947 and started

a family, they didn't realize that the country was letting in more war criminals than Jews. The middle part of the book goes from the personal to the political, as Karpf records the antisemitism in Britain of the period.

"Incredibly," she writes "a report of 1946 found some Britons expressing support for the gassing of the Jews, with many people still blaming Jews for the existence of anti-Semitism."

The book has been generally well received in Britain. But Theo Richmond — who wrote the award-winning *Konin: A Quest*, an absorbing account of his research into his own past and that of the Polish town of Konin — has criticized Karpf for mixing her personal story with that of the Jews in post-war England. Karpf defends her methods. "Many people had no idea of this information. My editor, a Jewish woman, did not know any of this. The material was there but had not been out of the history books. It had not been 'popularized,' if you like."

I found the history of British Jews before and after the war easy to absorb in Karpf's language, and sandwiched in between her personal story. Karpf says she has received hundreds of letters from the children of survivors and refugees, and, surprisingly, from many non-Jews who found that her story spoke to them. The interest in Karpf's book in Britain is partly, she says, a result of the fact that the British are only now coming to terms with the Holocaust. "This country has been extremely late in engaging in these issues. In America you had the Helen Epstein book [on second-generation children] in 1979. In Britain, it's all very new. It almost would not have mattered what I had written — the very fact that I broached the issue was enough. I had no idea of the tidal wave of response I would get."

Karpf is very critical of the Jewish "establishment" for not doing more to rescue European Jews before the war, for not putting more pressure on the British authorities to let in more Jews after the war, and for being insensitive to those survivors who finally made it to England. "The Jewish establishment has not given a very warm response. Some say Jews have to be extra well behaved and never wash their dirty laundry in public. The book is very critical of the Anglo-Jewish establishment. So I am an outsider in that respect."

Mountain of a man

CLOUDSPINNER by Russell Banks. HarperCollins, 268 pp. \$22.50.

By Joan Mellen

Russell Banks's extraordinary new novel, *Cloudspinner*, recounts the story of radical abolitionist John Brown from the perspective of his son, Owen, 30 years after Bleeding Kansas and the raid on the federal weapons manufactory at Harpers Ferry. Far surpassing Toni Morrison's works on this subject, it is the most important novel about race published in America since William Faulkner's *The Sound and The Fury*. "Was my father mad?" Owen wonders. Banks concludes that John Brown, a fanatical religious Puritan, who used the Old Testament as a manual for guerrilla warfare, was a competent, highly organized, revolutionary. Liberals, including former slave and orator

Frederick Douglass, cautiously talk abolition in this richly imagined, compelling historical novel. Only Brown, his sons, and a handful of followers are willing to sacrifice their lives so that the enslavement of their fellow man might end.

Cloudspinner is a deeply important book because it speaks so urgently to "the long, savage war between the white race and the black race" on the North American continent. "Even today, at century's end," Owen concludes, marking our own millennium as well, "we have not reached the end of it." Banks stands firmly against those who desire "nothing more than to declare the war between the races nonexistent." Like his masterpiece *Continental Drift*, *Cloudspinner* becomes a meditation on race. "White is as much a color as black," Banks writes, endorsing Brown's view that only on the question

of slavery and race did "a white man [reveal] the true nature of his character." Owen perceives that "a black person made me constantly conscious of my whiteness," and that "the disease of race-consciousness" afflicts white and black.

Banks suggests that only when "a white person resists the privilege of turning colorless" does he "free himself, at least partially, from the sickness of racialism." "To Negroes," he believes, "a white man is always white." *Cloudspinner* ponders as well the relationship between race and class. Brown notes that the poor whites who defend slavery "have no more chance of becoming rich than do the very slaves they despise and trample on." Banks offers simultaneously a profound psychological portrait of the Brown family with its overbearing, authoritarian patriarch who is more gentle with his live-

stock than with his children. Brown treats his sons as conscripts. Owen, an Isaac to his father's Abraham, compares himself to "a slave." His ambiguous sexuality flows from his belief that when his father is absent, he feels as if he doesn't exist.

Cloudspinner is a daring, original book. For Banks, Brown turned out to be correct: there was no way to end slavery except by killing people. No man is a hero to his biographer, and Brown is presented as a flawed individual. He also emerges as an American hero, unflinching in his conviction that "until the slaves were free none of us were free." Brown, Banks suggests, fought for no less an ideal than "to preserve the American Republic." The title refers to the Indian name for a mountain near Brown's Adirondack farm, one which thrusts itself boldly into the heavens, like the hero of this remarkable book.

(The Baltimore Sun)

STEIMATZKY'S BESTSELLING PAPERBACKS

1. *God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy. HarperCollins.
2. *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt. Touchstone.
3. *American Pastoral* by Philip Roth. Vintage.
4. *The Partner* by John Grisham. Dell, Arrow.
5. *Visitors* by Anita Brookner. Penguin.
6. *Serpent's Tooth* by Faye Kellerman. Headline, Avon.
7. *Gospel According to the Son* by Norman Mailer. Ballantine, Abacus.
8. *The Ranch* by Danielle Steel. Dell, Corgi.
9. *Birds of Prey* by Wilber Smith. Pan.
10. *Gold Mountain* by Charles Frazier. Sceptre, Vintage.

BOOK BYTES

Bob Gottlieb has a reputation for being "the top editor in the English-speaking world." As the former editor-in-chief at Knopf for 19 years, he worked hand-in-hand with Joseph Heller ("like two surgeons working on the same patient"), John le Carré ("he loves being stimulated") and Michael Crichton ("brilliant commercial author"), among hundreds of others. At the height of his career, he was doing 30-35 books a year. Gottlieb, who looks like a larger version of Woody Allen, says, "I'm famous as an editor for two things. Reading manuscripts on the day I get them. I don't think any writer of mine ever had to wait longer than a weekend to hear what I thought of their manuscript." And the other thing, "Very important. Not going out to lunch." Calling himself "a reading machine," Gottlieb admits he has had difficulty believing "that there were people in the world for whom reading was not a basic thing like breathing." Because nothing is real to him until he has read about it, he compiled a massive anthology about jazz, called *Reading Jazz* (Bloombury). Though he only came to jazz eight years ago, it's now his passion, and the book was a labor of love. The only problem with his collection was having to cut it down from its original 1,600 pages to the final 1,068 pages. He ironically describes the traumatic process of editing his own book as "the bitter bit."

THIS YEAR *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, founded in Edinburgh in 1768, is celebrating its 230th anniversary. The 32 volumes of the latest edition (costing around \$2,500) contain 65,000 articles, 23,000 illustrations and 44 million words. Numbered among the many famous contributors are Albert Einstein, Walter Scott, Sigmund

Frend and Alfred Hitchcock. Since the 1930s, the company was American-owned, and run as a charity for the University of Chicago by the Benton Foundation. In 1995, with sales halved from their 1990 level, the EB operation was sold to the Swiss-based multimillionaire Jacob Safra for \$400 million. Under its new management EB is sloughing off its somewhat "dusty" reputation and joining the information revolution of the 21st century. The subscription-based Britannica Online on the Internet (www.brit.co.uk) and the Britannica CD 98 (two CD-ROMs) at \$205 — less than a tenth of the price of the books — contain thousands more articles than the printed version.

JILL PATON WALSH put herself into the shoes and mind of Dorothy L. Sayers to complete the latter's last Lord Peter Wimsey mystery novel, *Unlabeled*, *Dominations* (Hodder). Sayers, who died in 1957, abandoned her novel after five chapters to carry on with a play and her translation of Dante's *Divine Comedy*. Known as a "literary author," Paton Walsh has, nevertheless, written two previous mysteries in the classic tradition. The challenge of completing Sayers' work was not knowing whodunit. Sayers, in addition to the five completed chapters, sketched a "somewhat runic" plot diagram and wrote notes that left no doubt as to the identity of the perpetrator. The worry was not to make the book a mere act of impersonation. "But the hoped-for fusion did occur," says a relieved Paton Walsh. "I began to dream this novel as if it were my own." In a lofter vein, Paton Walsh is currently working on a sequel to Jane Austen's *Emma*. In this project she feels that she is "standing on holy ground."

David Brautner

The New York Times BESTSELLERS

HARDCOVER Fiction

1. *The Street Lawyer* by John Grisham. (Doubleday \$27.95.) A young lawyer comes to terms with himself after discovering his prestigious firm's dirty secret.
2. *Paradise* by Toni Morrison. (Knopf \$25.) A small black utopia in rural Oklahoma experiences tragedy and regeneration when it encounters the real world.
3. *Gold Mountain* by Charles Frazier. (Atlantic Monthly \$24.) A Confederate soldier journeys home to meet an old love.
4. *Black and Blue* by Anne Curran. (Random House \$23.) After her husband turns violent, a woman flees to Florida with her young son to start a new life under a new name.
5. *Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden. (Knopf \$25.) The life of a young woman in prewar Kyoto.
6. *Thrill* by Jackie Collins. (Simon & Schuster \$25.) Passion and ambition at work and play among the film folk of New York and L.A.
7. *The Cat Who Sang for the Birds* by Lillian Jackson Braun. (Putnam \$22.95.) Quilten and his cats investigate a series of disasters.
8. *Blood Work* by Michael Connelly. (Little Brown \$23.95.) A retired FBI agent undertakes to solve the murder of an ailing woman's sister.
9. *Numbered Account* by Christopher Fitch. (Delacorte \$24.95.) A young man joins the Swiss banking world in order to find his father's murderer.
10. *Guilty Pleasures* by Lawrence Sanders. (Putnam \$24.95.) The Folsby family's publishing empire is threatened by deadly secrets.

HARDCOVER Non-fiction

1. *Talking to Heaven* by James Van Praagh. (Dutton \$22.) A "world-famous medium" discusses communication with the other side.
2. *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom. (Doubleday \$19.95.) A sports writer tells of his weekly visits to his old college mentor.
3. *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* by John Bendt. (Random House \$23.) Mysterious death in Savannah, Ga.
4. *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt. (Scribner \$24.) An Irish-American recalls his childhood amid the miseries of Limerick.
5. *The Millionaire Next Door* by Thomas J. Stanley and William D. Danko. (Longstreet \$22.) Wealthy Americans have seven characteristics in common.
6. *The Long Hard Road Out of Hell* by Marilyn Manson with Neil Strauss. (Raven Books/HarperCollins \$24.) The memoirs of the infamous rock star.
7. *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer. (Villard \$24.95.) An account of the ascent of Mount Everest in 1996, the deadliest season in history.
8. *Conversations with God: Book 1* by Neale Donald Walsch. (Putnam \$19.95.) The author addresses questions of life and love, good and evil, guilt and sin.
9. *The Perfect Storm* by Sebastian Junger. (Norton \$23.95.) An account of the nor'easter of 1991.
10. *James Cameron's Titanic* by Ed W. Marsh. (Photographs by Douglas Kirkland. HarperCollins \$20.) A lavishly illustrated account of the making of the film.

PAPERBACK Fiction

1. *The Partner* by John Grisham. (Island Dell \$7.99.) The pursuit of \$90 million stolen by a Mississippi lawyer.
2. *The Ranch* by Danielle Steel. (Dell \$7.50.) Three women who were college roommates come to terms with themselves at a Wyoming resort.
3. *Small Town Girl* by LaVyrre Spencer. (Love \$7.50.) A country music star, returning to her hometown, finds a new life.
4. *Hornet's Nest* by Patricia Cornwell. (Berkley \$7.50.) Two policemen and a reporter patrol Charlotte, N.C.
5. *Los Alamos* by Joseph Kanon. (Island Dell \$7.50.) As scientists work on the A-bomb in 1945, a Manhattan Project security officer is murdered.
6. *The Notebook* by Nicholas Sparks. (Warner Vision \$5.99.) A World War II veteran meets an old flame.
7. *Music in the Night* by V.C. Andrews. (Pocket \$7.50.) Laura Logan and her twin brother experience pleasant dreams and dark spirals.
8. *Here on Earth* by Alice Hoffman. (Berkley \$13.) Returning to her Massachusetts hometown after 19 years, a woman encounters her old love.
9. *The Callous Women* by Leah and Suzanne by Nora Roberts. (Scribe \$5.99.) Life provides mystery and romance for two sisters.
10. *Think Music* by Michael Connelly. (St. Martin's, \$5.99.) Harry Bosch's investigation of a Hollywood producer's murder.

PAPERBACK Non-fiction

1. *James Cameron's Titanic* by Ed W. Marsh. (Photographs by Douglas Kirkland. Harper Perennial \$20.) A lavishly illustrated account of the making of the film.
2. *A Night to Remember* by Walter Lord. (Bantam \$5.99.) A historian's account of the Titanic disaster.
3. *Leonardo DiCaprio: Modern-Day Romeo* by Grace Catalano. (Laurel-Lest/Dell \$4.99.) The life of the film actor.
4. *Under the Tuscan Sun* by Frances Mayes. (Broadway \$13.) A celebration of the Italian countryside by a poet.
5. *The Color of Water* by James McBride. (Riverhead \$12.) A Black writer and musician recalls growing up with his white mother.
6. *Just As I Am* by Billy Graham. (Harper Paperbacks \$7.99.) The autobiography of a crusading preacher.
7. *A Child Called It* by Dave Pelzer. (Health Communications \$9.95.) The autobiography of a man who survived his mother's abuse.
8. *A Civil Action* by Jonathan Harr. (Vintage \$13.) Householders sue industrial polluters.
9. *The Night Lives On* by Walter Lord. (Avon \$5.99.) A historian undertakes to answer many of the questions surrounding the Titanic disaster.
10. *The Leonard DiCaprio Album* by Brian J. Robb. (Pleas/Publishers Group West \$15.95.) An illustrated biography.

PAPERBACK Miscellaneous

1. *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff... and It's All Small Stuff* by Richard Carlson. (Hyperion \$8.95.) How to enjoy life much more and contribute to the world we live in.
2. *The Beanie Baby Handbook* 1998 by Les Fox and Sue Fox. (West Highland \$6.95.) A new edition and a guide for collectors of the toys.
3. *Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution* by Robert C. Atkins. (Avon \$5.50.) Ways to lose weight and achieve a healthy body.
4. *Leonardo by Grace Catalano*. (Dell \$7.95.) A scrapbook of photographs and text about film actor Leonardo DiCaprio.

HARDCOVER Miscellaneous

1. *Simple Abundance* by Sarah Ban Breathnach. (Warner \$17.95.) Advice for women seeking to improve the way they look at themselves.
2. *Don't Worry, Make Money* by Richard Carlson. (Hyperion \$15.95.) Ways to achieve a more enjoyable and profitable life.
3. *Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus* by John Gray. (HarperCollins \$25.) Improving communication and relationships.
4. *Eat Right 4 Your Type* by Peter J. D'Adamo with Catherine Whitney. (Putnam \$22.95.) Diets to suit each of the four blood types.

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The sound of silence

Tales have often been told of crafty old newsmen who squirrel away pre-written story drafts, with a few blank spots to fill in, and drag them out when the stories roll round again. They are, of course, the seasonal weather sagas.

"Canceled classes and high absenteeism were once again the order of the day as snow disrupted schools" — that opening paragraph from this paper in 1992 is today as fresh as a new snowfall. Equally serviceable from 1990: "The snowstorm that swept the capital had most Jerusalem workplaces paralyzed, costing the city's economy millions of shekels." Almost before the white blanket had settled on Jerusalem, radio commentators were castigating the mayor and the municipality for failing to anticipate and prevent the disruptions of the wintry weather. This is all grossly unfair, even if we disregard the unseasonal surprise Jerusalem woke up to, but it's a media ritual that happens all over the world.

Commentators would be better occupied telling the true story — after one of those typically tiresome Israeli weeks, there was a zing of pleasure in waking up to a winter wonderland of pristine white, of snow-clad trees and hedges, of children throwing snowballs.

It cast a benign veil over the hill of Har Homa, where an arrogant Englishman was shouted down by those rowdy Israelis who have the temerity to think Jerusalem is their capital — rather than the "Tel Aviv" the BBC was using to personify "Israel" in its reporting of the events. "The might of the gentle, unsmit by the sword, hath melted like snow in the glance of the Lord!" — as wrote Lord Byron, a heroic Englishman who died fighting for Greek independence.

In Tel Aviv the natives furtively examine piles of halitones and hope they will be declared as "snow" on the next news bulletin; but failing that, they profess disdain for the publicity given to the snow-covered beauty of Jerusalem's hills. They worry about the closure of the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway, gripped by some primal fear, of being trapped "up there" for a night. Snow seems somehow un-Jewish, like Alaska or skiing, as one cafe lounge was heard to comment — no doubt because of the Christmas-and-

Christmas thing, forgetting that they took that from the Holy Land, just like they also took their leader from the Jews.

Here we have a common nation divided by two cities, and now by snow, and why not, since even snow is just one more thing to divide the nation. It is ironic this late winter snowfall came just before this weekend, when we turn the clocks to daylight saving time, also known as summer time. There is almost nothing that escapes the Jewish talent for disagreement — even the annual clock shuffle. Of all the nations in the world that adjust their clocks for summer, only in Israel is there an annual fight over it — another pre-written story for a crafty newsmen who may just leave a blank for the number of days of daylight saving.

This is one of the strangest bones of contention between the religious and secular camps. Religious parties want summer time restricted to 16 weeks or so between Pessah and the month of Elul, when the observant rise early for sabbatical prayers. The seculars, with beaches and sea and cool mornings on their minds, cry "nonsense!" and demand the majority right of a European summer slice — from March to October. This year it will end September 4 — or 10 days earlier than last year. Those who rise early for prayers deserve sympathy, but it is the majority, and the economy, that should have the rights here, as any referendum on the issue would overwhelmingly prove.

But enough of contention, if only for a day, while we quietly contemplate Robin Cook's departing back and the acoustic insulation against Israeli noise that the capital's brief snow blanket offers. Winter's painter-in-white is a rare and short-staying visitor to the capital of Zion, so let us marvel that snow at least can briefly make the capital an undivided one. Mr. Cook, Church domes, mosque minarets, synagogue roofs all share the white magic touch without favor or discrimination. Even in snuffy seaside Tel Aviv, the smell of frost and snow wafts on the air, bringing one last cozy winter night of warm armchair and bed. The snow will soon be slush and gone. But in our hearts at least, it can lie long and deep, with the sound of silence.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HIGH-HANDED BEHAVIOR

Sir, — Robin Cook's deliberately controversial statements and high-handed behavior yesterday, particularly regarding Jerusalem, Har Homa and the issue of settlements, were designed to humiliate and embarrass the Israeli government. He forcefully attempted to announce publicly his views and those of the European Union in a way designed to antagonize, cause dissension and humiliate.

I am an ex-citizen of Belfast, Northern Ireland, and am very familiar with the politics of Ireland as a whole. It is indeed fair for David Bar-Illan to have made the point on Monday that no member of the Israeli government would ever consider meeting Gerry Adams, as this would be sure to antagonize the British government.

I will take this a stage further. I cannot foresee, even if such a meeting were to take place, such a government official delightedly embracing, hugging and kissing Adams in the way that Cook greeted Yasser Arafat. This ranked as bravado and was further insult to Israel especially since Adams and Arafat are all "birds of a feather" with the blood of countless people on their hands.

STANLEY SHAPIRO
Ra'anana.

IN BEVIN'S FOOTSTEPS

Sir, — Even critics of Prime Minister Netanyahu and his policies were taken back by the behavior of British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, who appeared to be following in the footsteps of an earlier foreign secretary.

It might therefore be appropriate to award him the Ernest Bevin Memorial Award for Undiplomatic Diplomacy.

NECHEMIA MEYERS
Rehovot.

SHEER ARROGANCE

Sir, — Must British government officials behave as bumbling bulls in a china shop? The sheer arrogance of Robin Cook's blatant meddling in Israeli-Palestinian affairs is incendiary. Throwing hospitality to the wind, his tactless visit to Har Homa further ignites delicate matters.

Go home Robin Cook and do your homework! Forcing your opinion on a democratic country shows how little you comprehend complex Middle Eastern issues.

I am disgusted by the double standards constantly meted out by consecutive British governments endeavoring to dictate to us.

SUSAN YABLONSKY
Kibbutz Negba.

BE FAIR TO BRITAIN

Sir, — In reporting Robin Cook's visit to Har Homa, your correspondents give the impression that Britain is and has been Israel's arch enemy.

To be fair, from the Balfour Declaration of 1917 to Britain's withdrawal from Palestine in 1947 (which it did without any foot-dragging), the Yishuv expanded from some 60,000 to 600,000 souls, with all the institutions that made for an embryonic state. Britain also had to contend with Arab opposition and resistance to our building up the Jewish National Home that became our state, after her heroic victory over the Nazi menace that had threatened to destroy all of us.

ISAAC NEWMAN
Jerusalem.

STAND FIRM

Sir, — The attitude of the British foreign secretary, Robin Cook, towards Israel vs. the Palestinian Authority, reminds one of events of 50 years ago, when another newly elected Labor foreign minister, Ernest Bevin, tried to solve the conflict between the Jews and the Arabs in Palestine. He then also sided with the Arabs against the Jews and encouraged them not to come to any accepted agreement with the Israelis.

We now see the results. Fifty years later, we have a proud

KOSHER CIGARETTES?

Sir, — Each year, towards Pessah, Israeli cigarette companies have the audacity to place Kosher for Pessah labels on cigarettes.

Meanwhile, Israeli cigarette manufacturers regularly advertise cigarettes near Havdalah candles, and, of late, next to holy books of the Torah, as if there is some kind of religious commandment to commit suicide.

The time has come to do something to remove the religious sanc-

tion of smoking, and to demand that the rabbis of Israel resist the economic pressures of the tobacco industry.

I invite people who wish to join me in the costs of a precedent-making class action suit in a Rabbinic Court that will challenge the sanction of cigarette smoking to be in touch with me:

DAVID SAUL
POB 1941, Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On March 19, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported that German citizens in Palestine, Jewish and Christian, were greatly disturbed over the reports of the recent waves of anti-Jewish persecution in Germany and had protested to President Hindenburg over the matter.

50 years ago: On March 19, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that in bitter frustration at the heavy loss of life and explosives which Arab terrorists suffered when the Hagana destroyed their convoy smuggling such "supplies" from Syria, Arabs in Haifa vented their feelings by almost day-long attacks on the Jewish areas where four Jews and

five British soldiers were killed.

25 years ago: On March 19, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported the official Israeli denial of a claim made by Southern Yemen that it had leased a cape from Ethiopia on the western coast of the Red Sea.
Alexander Zvielli



OLEG 98

Foreign Office traditions

On perfidious Albion is how the French would describe British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook's blundering efforts to lay down the law to the Israeli government. Rajah-style, visiting the natives in their primitive land during his visit to Israel this week.

He clearly gave the impression that he had been infected by the firmly entrenched three-headed virus of the British ruling class: arrogance, appeasement and distaste of Jews. This last feature is a meld of old-fashioned antisemitism and a British Foreign Office love affair. Lawrence of Arabia-style, with Middle Eastern Arabs idolized as handsome, Omar Sharif tribesmen galloping their pure-bred steeds across the desert.

Cook follows a long line of such gentlemen ranging from Neville Chamberlain, Ernest Bevin and diplomats whose favorite postings are in Middle Eastern Arab countries.

BUT it is not our intention to take Cook to task for following this less than noble line of his predecessors, even though one confesses to feeling a little queasy in the stomach watching the way he made the first pass when he met Yasser Arafat in Gaza. The British foreign secretary grabbed and hugged his startled host before the PLO chief could even purse his lips to kiss the cheeks of his English gentleman guest.

Instead, we will relate some details of how the Israelis have the greatest admiration for the British people and showed it in a very practical way.

We speak of 1991 and the beginning of the Gulf War. A guest was ushered into that London holy of holies called the Cabinet Office, where the real business of directing Britain's destiny is conducted. The group of men present were reinforced by the presence of chaps

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

from MI-6, the UK's version of the Mossad. The emissary from Israel did not waste time. He gave his stunned listeners precise details of where Saddam Hussein had stored much of his war material, and other vital data concerning the Iraqi army's command headquarters.

The British checked out this information as fast as they could.

Cook was following the less than noble line of his predecessors

Their airmen carrying out air strikes, and commando units operating deep behind enemy lines, were risking their lives daily. And thanks to this accurate data which arrived like manna from heaven, not only were their soldiers and flyers more effective in their activities, they were safer.

The UK government was so impressed that it sent, for the first time, an official letter of thanks to the office of Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Shamir. It was a generous gesture, as Britain has never forgiven Shamir for his role as leader of the Stern underground group.

A similar situation occurred when a British policewoman was shot dead outside the Libyan embassy in London. It was Israeli intelligence who passed on the details that the shooting was no accident. It had been ordered in person by Muammar Gaddafi.

The Israelis were also responsible for providing British authorities with details showing how Libyan agents played a key role in planting a bomb aboard the Pan Am plane which blew up over Lockerbie.

Scotland. This time it was the MI-5 internal security forces who were delighted when Israeli intelligence officials revealed how Gaddafi was providing military aid and training facilities to the IRA in Northern Ireland. The importance of all this vital data flowing to London from Jerusalem can be gauged by the fact that MI-6 decided to refocus its major attention from the Soviet Union to the Middle East. In the past when MI-6 appointed a new chief, he came directly from the branch of the service involved with Eastern Europe. But the new boss of the organization is nowadays the individual who ran the Middle Eastern bureau.

In the light of this close cooperation between Jerusalem and London, it seems strange that the Foreign Office to this day continues its strong anti-Jewish line. In 1944 Chaim Weizmann, who became Israel's first president, appealed to the Foreign Office to bomb the railway line bringing Jews to the furnace of Auschwitz. The response of the head of the southern command, a Mr. William D. Allen commented in a note: "We waste a disproportionate amount of time to listening to the wailing Jews." Auschwitz was never bombed.

A question must be asked: Were Foreign Office officials responsible for briefing Robin Cook and telling him that he should come to Israel and behave like a bull in a china shop? We suspect this must be so. For only yesterday Cook's entourage expressed astonishment at Israel's strong reaction to his making Har Homa his main call during his visit to Jerusalem. The "perfidious Albion" comment clearly should be aimed at the Foreign Office in London.

The writers are Jerusalem Post columnists.

A paradigm lost

DANIEL DORON

The kibbutz movement's lengthy social and economic crisis which again made the headlines with the closure of Kibbutz Afikim's plywood factory — once its prosperous mainstay — is a microcosmic reflection of Israel's anti-productive economic structure and ideology.

It seems, however, that the crisis, like a hangman's noose, has concentrated some minds wonderfully, so that after years of denial, some kibbutzim are starting to address their problems. Since the kibbutzim have long been the ideological vanguard and role model for Israeli society, we dare hope that the crisis which has awakened them to reality, will also have wider repercussions and hasten urgently needed general economic reforms before a similar costly crisis forces change upon all of us.

For decades, Kibbutz Afikim, like most kibbutzim, was directly and indirectly subsidized first by Jewish Agency contributions and then also by the Israeli taxpayer. Perhaps its pioneering role justified such help. But the fact is that despite having received their land at little or no cost, and despite continued heavy subsidies from taxpayers, kibbutzim have not succeeded economically or socially. In fact, it is likely that such constant aid caused the kibbutzim's repeated failures.

No amount of well intentioned dedication to the good of the collective, which kibbutz members had in profusion, managed to compensate, it turned out, for their chronic low productivity caused by "priceless" investments and lack of incentive and individual motivation.

To raise its low productivity and save itself from total collapse, Afikim hired an outside manpower expert who discovered that "the kib-

butz work ethic has created serious distortions over the years."

The second generation in the kibbutz, "... did not understand ... that all the things they got ... had to be earned ..." (How could they, since their heavily subsidized elders did not really "earn" it either?)

Therefore, the expert's first task was to "... determine, for the first time, the real market value of every job ... You need this kind of cost accounting if you want the prices of your products or services to be real", the expert sensibly noted.

Individually he may have put his finger on what is one of the worst problems afflicting not only the kibbutz, but the whole Israeli economy, the unreality of prices. We all know by now that there are lies, damn lies, and statistics. But beyond the banal truth that numbers, like words, are given to easy manipulation, there lurks a far graver problem. Our whole economic system, with the same devastating consequences as in the kibbutz, on fictional prices. These are prices that, to a great extent, are determined by government fiat and intervention, and by monopolistic manipulation, rather than by the true relations between supply and demand that reflect real consumer choices as transacted in a free and competitive market.

Fictional prices are terribly tricky and dangerous. Like a wine that can be diluted with water and still maintain the quality of wine prices; too may suffer some meddling and still perform their essential signaling function. But once meddled with beyond a certain point, prices cease to perform their

vital task of allocating resources most efficiently, and disastrously misallocate them instead.

If there was one major reason for the collapse of the Soviet system and the repeated economic failure of Socialist regimes everywhere, it was the corruption of prices. For price corruption, as we learned here during runaway inflation, leads to a disorientation and then to the degeneration of the productive process.

Tzvi Schatz, the father of the kibbutz, boasted that the kibbutz would create not only a new man and a new society but also a new economic system. Poor Tzvi, he was almost right, except in a way he could not imagine or enjoy. But some members of the kibbutz have finally come to understand the futility of such ambition.

"I think," one kibbutz member confided, "that we are moving to privatization, and that is a good thing." Perhaps he ought to try and convince Amir Perez, his Labor ally and the many in academia who are still fighting privatization tooth and nail at continued terrible cost to the workers — especially the "weaker strata" that have to bear the brunt of fixed monopolistic prices. (Provided, of course, that privatization is undertaken in earnest, as a means to increase competitiveness, and not to transfer, as often is the case, state assets to cronies.)

It is heartbreaking that it took so long for the lesson to sink in and at such terrible cost. Hopefully it is not too late to save both the kibbutz movement and the Israeli economy as a whole. All of us have already paid a tragically high price.

The writer is director of the Israel Center for Social Economic Progress.

Repentant writer

WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY JR.

Much attention has lately been given to author David Brock. For those who are happily unaware, the sequence is as follows. David Brock, a young investigative reporter, published an article in *The American Spectator* that had the greatest catalytic effect since someone thought to add C squared to the formula E equals M.

Briefly, Brock wrote about several Arkansas state troopers ("Troopergate") who reported to him that their services had been used to shield Gov. Bill Clinton while he was having at it with sundry ladies, in which connection Brock mentioned the name Paula. The article prompted Paula Jones to identify herself as a failed object of Clinton's lust, and to file suit.

That suit prompted Paula's lawyers to depose defendant Clinton. This was an effort to impeach (a lawyer's term) his credentials by establishing that philandering was one of Clinton's proclivities, like health care and balanced budgets. To do this, they came up with Kathleen Willey, who testified to her own experience in the White House; and from the general investigation the name of Monica Lewinsky popped up.

The rest, as everybody knows, has become an apparently endless serial for the *National Enquirer*. Brock went on to write a book about Hillary Rodham Clinton (publisher's advance: \$1 million) in which he rather surprised his cheerleaders by proclaiming that Mrs. Clinton had been misrepresented and maligned.

This departure from ideological orthodoxy upset some conservative reviewers, who criticized the book. Brock objected vehemently to the criticism and, so to speak, announced that he would no longer associate himself with the conservative line or with *The American Spectator*.

He also revealed that he was gay and seemed to encourage the impression that criticisms of him stemmed from this other departure from the straight conservative scene.

Now appears in the pages of *Esquire* — this is the item in the current issue — a five-page, fawning "open" letter to President Clinton from David Brock that, except for the author, the subject and the style, reminds one of the Confessions of St. Augustine.

What were David Brock's motives in writing the original piece? "I wasn't hot for this story in the interest of good government or serious journalism. I wanted to pop you right between the eyes." That sentence is not only bad syntax, it is bad thought.

It doesn't matter that a writer should dislike the person he is writing about, provided the writer doesn't misrepresent the facts. David Halberstam obviously disliked the people he wrote about in his book *The Best and the Brightest*, but he didn't make up any facts, and nobody has proved that what Brock wrote was different from what he had been told by the troopers he interviewed.

Brock goes on, "I don't know what's happened between you and Monica Lewinsky.... But regardless of how the drama plays out, as the first reporter who leered into your sex life, I do know that I didn't learn a damn thing worth knowing about your character."

That's very odd, because Brock seems to be saying that it is no clue to the character of a governor of Arkansas if it is established that a) he is an adulterer, and therefore a violator of a public pledge made before an altar; b) he abetted his adultery by the use of state officials; and c) denied what, at least in the case of Gennifer Flowers, turned out to be true by his own admission.

But hold on. "If sexual witch-hunts become the way to win in politics, if they become our politics altogether, we can and will destroy everyone in public life."

My goodness. This is a venture in cultural genocide, no less. Destroy everyone in public life! Close your eyes, think hard and ask yourself: Can you come up with the name of one person in public life who hasn't, as far as anyone knows, committed adultery? Let alone harnessed public servants to shield his activity? Let alone lied about the entire matter?

Brock uses language carelessly, which, to stretch a metaphor, is adulterous activity in a writer. The reason to deplore a witch hunt is that there are no witches. The hunt for impropriety in a public figure is very different from the hunt for witches, because impropriety in public figures is much less than the universal Brock hints at, but much more than the hunt for witches, inasmuch as impropriety does exist — not only among public officials, but also among published writers.

(Universal Press Syndicate)

POSTSCRIPT

AH, THE power of the press. A recent item in *Postscript* dealt with a baffling heading on an official English-language Interior Ministry form. Lidia Vago, of Petah Tikva, brought it to our attention, and provided the

diagnosis as well — guessing that "ETACITREC" was really a misspelled backwards rendition of "CERTIFICATE."

Well, guess who reads *Postscript*? Yup, the Interior Ministry.

They sent a letter to Vago, with a copy to the *Post*, kindly asking her to identify the offending form, so that they can correct the error.

Enlightened government in action. It's a dream come true.

Hot tips

Weekender

By JOEL GORDIN

About 10 years ago two jazz-band leaders, up-and-coming saxophonist Shlomi Goldenberg from Tel Aviv and master drummer Bob Moses from New York, were waiting for their respective bands outside a Boston recording studio. Neither band turned up, and Goldenberg and Moses, reluctant to waste the booking, took part in a jam session. They became firm friends and have worked on many joint projects, both in Israel and the US, in the name of jazz.

Their latest joint venture is taking place in Israel and will reach a crescendo next week at multi-media concerts to be held in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. The concerts coincide with the resurrection of Tel Aviv's once-famed Beit Lessin Jazz Club.

The club was always known as "the Upper Cellar" because activity took place in the upper story of the Histadrut-owned Beit Lessin theater in north Tel Aviv. From the mid-'60s to the mid-'80s, it was a mecca for local jazz lovers.

Experienced players as well as wannabe artists flocked to the noisy, smoke-filled weekly concerts to play and to listen. Among them were such Israeli greats as singer Edna Goren, drummer Arie Kaminisky and pianist Danny Gottfried.

No one can put their finger on when the jazz started to fade at the Upper Cellar but by 1990, the weekly stampede of jazz worshippers to their temple had become a trickle. Three years ago, the jazz evenings stopped. Hard rock and stand-up comedy became the order of the day in the Upper Cellar. Starting this week, however, its walls will once again reverberate with the sound of jazz.

Goldenberg, who has returned to Israel after 10 years in the US and Europe, is reopening the Beit Lessin Jazz Club, with the financial assistance of the Tel Aviv Municipality. He says his dual aims are to encourage original Israeli jazz and to host prominent jazz artists from abroad.

Goldenberg will kick off the Upper Cellar's new lease on life with a series of concerts under the title of Journey into Rhythm. He'll be leading his own band, The Little Big Band, and the guest artist will be his old friend, Bob Moses, who has flown in from the US for the occasion. It is a coup for any Israeli band to play with Moses, who is hailed as one of the most prominent drummers of our era.

Three preliminary concerts in the series were held last week but the climax — called the Soul of Jazz — will be held on Monday night at 10. Goldenberg describes the Soul of Jazz as a "multi-media event that tells the story of jazz, combining video art, live music, computer music and two singers." The singers are Shevachia and Elisheva Bat Israel, both members of the Black Hebrew community of Dimona with whom Goldenberg has been working for some years. There will be a special showing Saturday night at Confederation House in Jerusalem.

Goldenberg, 38, grew up in Tel Aviv, where his burning ambition was to be a computer engineer. After he left school, however, he started "fiddling around" with the saxophone and became hooked on music. He studied at the Berkley School of Music in Seattle and continued his studies at the New England Conservatory in Boston, where he formed his first Little Big Band, which played in the



Golden Goldenberg

After 10 years abroad, Shlomi Goldenberg is reopening the Beit Lessin Jazz Club

"By combining the worlds of jazz and classical music you come up with something very exciting," says Shlomi Goldenberg. (Kfir Ziv)

city's foremost jazz clubs. Among its first members was pianist Danilo Perez, who later played with Dizzy Gillespie.

In 1988 Goldenberg took his Little Big Band to Israel, where it received favorable reviews. The band returned to Boston where, in 1989, it gave a concert at the New England Conservatory Concert Hall. Goldenberg presented his composition for a symphony orchestra and a jazz group entitled *Cool as Ice*. Says Goldenberg, "I was influenced by classical music, and by combining the worlds of jazz and classical music you come up with something very exciting." He was later drawn to Caribbean music and included elements of this in his works (he calls it "jazz with a steel guitar").

In 1990, Moses joined the Little Big Band on its second tour of Israel. In '92, he reformed his band with a group of dynamic young players and played throughout Israel. He enlisted back-up singer Elisheva Bat Israel, who was once the girlfriend of Stevie Wonder. Bat Israel wrote lyrics to Goldenberg's songs. In 1994 they released an album called *Zus Muse* ("Music that Makes You Move").

In 1997, Goldenberg presented the Soul of Jazz to a packed Gershwin Theater in Tel Aviv. He has revamped and streamlined the venture for the Upper Cellar's

reopening night on Monday.

BOB MOSES, born in the Bronx 50 years ago, grew up in Manhattan. His parents were not musicians but they moved in music circles, and jazz icons like Dizzy Gillespie and John Coltrane were frequent visitors to his home.

His first instrument — which he mastered at the age of 10 — was the vibraphone, but he went on to the drums and he formed his first band, the Free Spirits, in 1965 at age 17.

He has cut five albums and has worked and recorded with the world's top jazz musicians, including Charles Mingus, Pharoah Sanders, Gary Burton, Moses Allison, Larry Coryell, Keith Jarrett, Dave Liebman, Dave Sanborn, Jack DeJohnette and Michael Gibbs.

Moses currently leads a band called Mozambique, which combines funk, New Orleans, soul, Afro-Cuban Brazilian reggae, and African rhythms with his own distinctive melodies.

"I am attracted to all kinds of music, especially to Caribbean and Afro-Cuban," says the balding, soft-spoken Moses. "I mix these beats with jazz to get a form of music you can dance to." He elaborates further, "One must remember that jazz is now not only the traditional beats that were belted out in smoke-filled cellars by the likes of Thelonious Monk and Gillespie. It now can be pro-

duced with a thousand variations and influences."

He continues: "One must move with the times. I, for example, work with synthesizers, video music and samplers [high-tech recording machines that enable bands to include parts of performances recorded at another time or place]."

The only aspect of modern music that Moses says he does not like is brash commercialism. "I suppose that stems from the fact I am a poor businessman and have never made the big bucks. I simply can't be bothered to get involved with lawyers to ensure that my work is copyrighted. It comes from being a child of the Sixties; I believe that all sound should be free."

In a review in the *New York Times*, Robert Palmer wrote about Moses and his band: "Saxophones, bass and other standard big-band instruments combine mix with eerie wordless vocals, synthesizers, electric guitar and oddities like an electric contrabass clarinet. Dancable funk rhythms collide head-on with Dixieland and swing; ghostly space sounds float over rock 'n' roll riffs. This is the freshest new big-band music in a long while. But it isn't abstract or forbiddingly complex. It's as assuming, outgoing and likable as Bob Moses himself."

In addition to Mozambique, Moses leads a percussion ensemble called

The Drumming Birds, some of whose music has been choreographed for performance by Adrienne Hawkins, director of the Impulse Dance Company. He has produced a jazz narrative of the Exodus from Egypt under the title "Story Of Moses," which received rave reviews in the US.

This is Moses's fourth visit to Israel. "I am attracted to the country, I suppose, because I am Jewish, although I think Jerusalem is the most beautiful city anywhere in the world. At any rate, I certainly do not come here for the money!"

The Soul Of Jazz combines the voices of singers Elisheva Bat Israel and Shevachia Bat Israel with narrator Dvir Bendick, video art by Ronen Liebman, music by Shlomi Goldenberg and the Little Big Band with Bob Moses on drums, Shlomi Goldenberg — saxophones, Zaki Freedman — guitars, Oded Goldschmidt — bass, Alon Weissman — percussion.

Performances at 9 p.m. Saturday at the Zionist Confederation House, Jerusalem, and at 10 p.m. Monday at the Upper Cellar, Beit Lessin, Tel Aviv.

Next month, the Upper Cellar Jazz Club will operate every Wednesday night at 10 under management of Shlomi Goldenberg. In April, the Upper Cellar will host the Shevachia Bat Israel band, the Ofer and Iris Portugaly band, and the contemporary jazz band Confusion.

A bar with a view

By TRACY FISKE

Hiking through the lush, wonderfully watery Irish countryside on a recent trip, I was amazed by the fact that at the end of every trail, no matter how remote we thought we were, there was always a pub to be found. After each commune with the great, green outdoors, we collapsed into happy exhaustion, sipping a cold beer in a bar filled with friendly locals.

Who would have guessed that half a year after returning from my vacation, while walking through the Lifa Valley, I would discover the Iguana restaurant/bar. Perched on the side of the mountain, Iguana affords fabulous views of the blossoming, verdant valley and, as luck would have it, is a great place to end an afternoon hike through the area. For those not familiar with Lifa, it is the valley you pass on the right just as you leave Jerusalem going toward Tel Aviv.

Iguana was opened 10 months ago by the Matei-El brothers, Guy and Meir. To get to the building from the parking lot, you walk through a short outdoor corridor covered by a thatched roof, and onto the patio, which overlooks Lifa.

A patch of wilderness just outside the city, Lifa is a riot of color right now, nearly as green as Ireland, with almond trees, poppies, cyclamen and endless bushes of yellow wild flowers in bloom. There is also a small natural spring.

With this brilliance as a backdrop, Iguana's patio should be a beautiful place to unwind come warmer weather. The terrace will be furnished with tables and chairs, and customers can order drinks from a round, tropical-looking bar.

The building itself looks like a closed pavilion. The ceiling is comprised of a tin roof sitting on wooden beams. The entire wall facing the valley is glass.

The room is large, with enough tables and chairs to accommodate some 100 people. A long, winding, wooden bar can seat up to 20. The floor is a carpet of small white rocks, which, along with the rest of the design, creates the feeling of being outside while actually sitting inside.

"Iguana is just as much a restaurant as a bar," little brother Meir tells me. In fact, in *Kol Ha'ir's* listings, it only appears under the category of "fish restaurants." This to me seems strange, since it's got tons of potential as a watering hole. The owners appear intent on preserving their vision of Iguana as a unique retreat from the craziness of the city; a hangout where the 21-and-over crowd can enjoy a good meal, or a few drinks, in a laid-back setting. "We don't advertise. People find out about Iguana from their friends through word of mouth," Meir says.

Thursday nights a duo performs live music. On other nights, the stereo plays a variety of songs from the more mellow Shlomo Artzi and Sung, to danceable '80s pop tunes you haven't heard since you were a kid.

Happy hour is 8-10, and you must drink two before getting your third free, which pretty much forces you to come out staggering if you're to take advantage of the deal. Carlsberg, Tuborg and Heineken are on tap, from NIS 14 to NIS 16. Tequila, vodkas and top-brand whiskies are priced at NIS 20 to NIS 35.

The menu ranges from bar bites to full dinners: from salads, toasts and pizza (NIS 22 to NIS 38), to pastas, stir fries and a wide variety of fish (NIS 30 to NIS 65). After-dinner treats include blintzes, ice cream and fruit (NIS 11 to NIS 32).

Getting to Iguana, open nightly from 6, can be a bit tricky. While it's only a few minutes by car from the Central Bus Station, suddenly you're in the boonies. On the road to Ramat you have to make a U-turn before turning into Lifa because of construction work. Follow the signs straight to the pub. If you get lost, Meir says feel free to call for directions, (02) 652-3322.

With its unusual location and stunning view, Iguana could become one of Jerusalem's coolest night spots. But its isolation creates a special challenge to the owners, who must lure the crowds out to Lifa. My humble advice: a little promotion could go a long way. It's a difficult market and I'd hate to see this place falter — especially with the warm weather just around the corner.

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Music on my mind

Popular entertainer Yair Nitzani talks about his favorite musicians

Actor, comedian, musician and businessman, Yair Nitzani has spanned the entertainment world to great acclaim and much personal satisfaction.

In his earlier years, Nitzani was the keyboardist and songwriter with the immensely popular Israeli rock band T-Slani, with Izhar Ashdot and others. He went from writing songs to producing them, running Hed Artzi, one of the largest record companies in the country, for six years.

Nitzani was highly visible as a comedian and an actor, appearing in films, on television shows, and in commercials. According to Nitzani, the films he appeared in "were not worth seeing," let alone naming. But as a stand-up comedian and comedic performer, he was terrific. "My wife doesn't think I'm funny," he says in pure deadpan.

Nitzani's most recent entertainment endeavor was the ill-fated TV series *Mr. Ambassador*. In this satirical comedy-drama, he played the title role, the ambassador of a fictitious country whose exploits were to make some rather incisive social comments on the small screen. However, the show never made it past the pilot episode. "It's too bad," laments Nitzani, "I really liked it."

Nitzani has parlayed his multiple talents and experience into a successful business, Yair Nitzani Music. The company produces records for local artists and puts out compilation discs. Its main thrust is the attainment of music rights for commercials, in Israel and abroad. For example, if a company that manufactures margarine ("margarina" in Hebrew) wants to do a commercial using the tune to the Macarena, Nitzani is the man to see.

As for seeing him perform, those days seem to be over. "I try to make as few public appearances as possible," says Nitzani. "I'm tired."

He was not too tired, however, to talk about some of his favorite musicians.



1. **Jimmi Hendrix**
"Hendrix was wild, strong, energetic, sexy. He was from a different world. He was a musician who was definitely ahead of his time."

2. **Led Zeppelin**
"I like their songs — the writing and the energy of them. Such as 'Stairway to Heaven.' I like they way the group performed, especially their late drummer, John Bonham."

3. **Hall and Oates**
"I enjoy their songs — not the music so much as the lyrics. They had a good pop sound. For example, 'Your Kiss Is on My List.' They put out some really nice round pop songs."

4. **James Brown**
"I love the 'monkeyness' of him — the way he used to jump around the stage. He was very jumpy, very funky. He was also way ahead of his time. He was an icon. I saw him perform in Tel Aviv, at the Cinerama, in the 1980s. He was just great."

5. **Prince**
"What I like about Prince is that he does the unexpected. I like his ability to do whatever he feels, with no limitations. I enjoy his songs. I don't particularly go for the image, but I like the writing and the production of the music, as in 'Sign of the Times,' for example." — Ruth Beloff-Begun

Hot tips

By DAHLIA SCHEINDLIN

Tel Aviv

Tzavta Theater corners the music market tonight, with two shows and a variety of choices. Behind door No. 1 (that is, Tzavta 1), Danny Gottfried hosts Israeli 11. Danny Gottfried hosts Israeli 11. Danny Gottfried hosts Israeli 11. Meet the Artist. Saxophonist Jaz Corn is the concert's feature, accompanied by Gottfried on piano, along with

bassist and drummer. Door No. 2 (Tzavta 2) reveals Dorit Reuveni in a concert whose subject should have fairly wide appeal — love. On Ron Givrol, near Dizengoff intersection. Call (03) 695-0158/7.

Breaking the Tzavta musical hegemony is Logos, off the Carmel Market in south Tel Aviv. Tonight it's the venue for Atrax. This lovable Mexican/Latino (yet Hebrew-singing) band plays its latest music, replete with sweet songs and typically jolly tunes, starting at 10. At 8 Hashomer. Call (03) 516-1176.

For a little — actually, a lot — more physical action that even offers some humor, the Bomer modern dance group premieres its new show, *Cloning*, at the Suzanne Dellal Center in Neveh Tzedek, tonight at 9. A witty contrast to the sometimes somber modern-dance scene, *Cloning* has fun at the expense of yuppie life

everywhere. Call (03) 510-5656. Feel-good audiences, stay away, but those with a passion for raw, painful drama will appreciate the superbly acted *Anna Weiss*, a play in the high-psychological suspense style of Ariel Dorfman's *Death and the Maiden*. Written by Mike Cullen, translated into Hebrew and directed by Oded Kotler of Habimah, *Anna Weiss* plays tonight at 8:30 at Beit Lessin, off Kikar Hamedina. Call (03) 695-6222.

Jerusalem

The ambitious, heavily advertised, first-ever Du-Oman festival opened this week in Jerusalem. Tonight four brave pairs bear their creative — and likely highly original — fruits at the Jerusalem Theater. Starting at 8:30 p.m., Rami Hoyberger and Dov Navon perform at the Rebecca Crown Auditorium, while Program 4

plays in the smaller hall. Artists to watch out for in this show include Yair Datal and Arye Burstein, Ofra Weingarten and Uri Pastman. (02) 679-9922

Tonight is a veritable poetry festival in Jerusalem. The Zionist Confederation House holds an evening called *Songs of Poets*, in which Ruth Blument, Yoram Varta and Rivka Miriam read their works, while Ayelet Carmon sings poems to music played by Dan Akiva (guitar, Zvi Atzmou). 12 Emile Botta Street, near King David Hotel. (02) 624-5206.

Purists and English speakers can attend the poetry reading at the British Council at 8 p.m., where poets Alonza Halter and Jay Shir read and discuss their work, including their literary influences. Both write (and will be speaking) in English. The event is so popular it requires a reservation. Call (02) 673-6733.

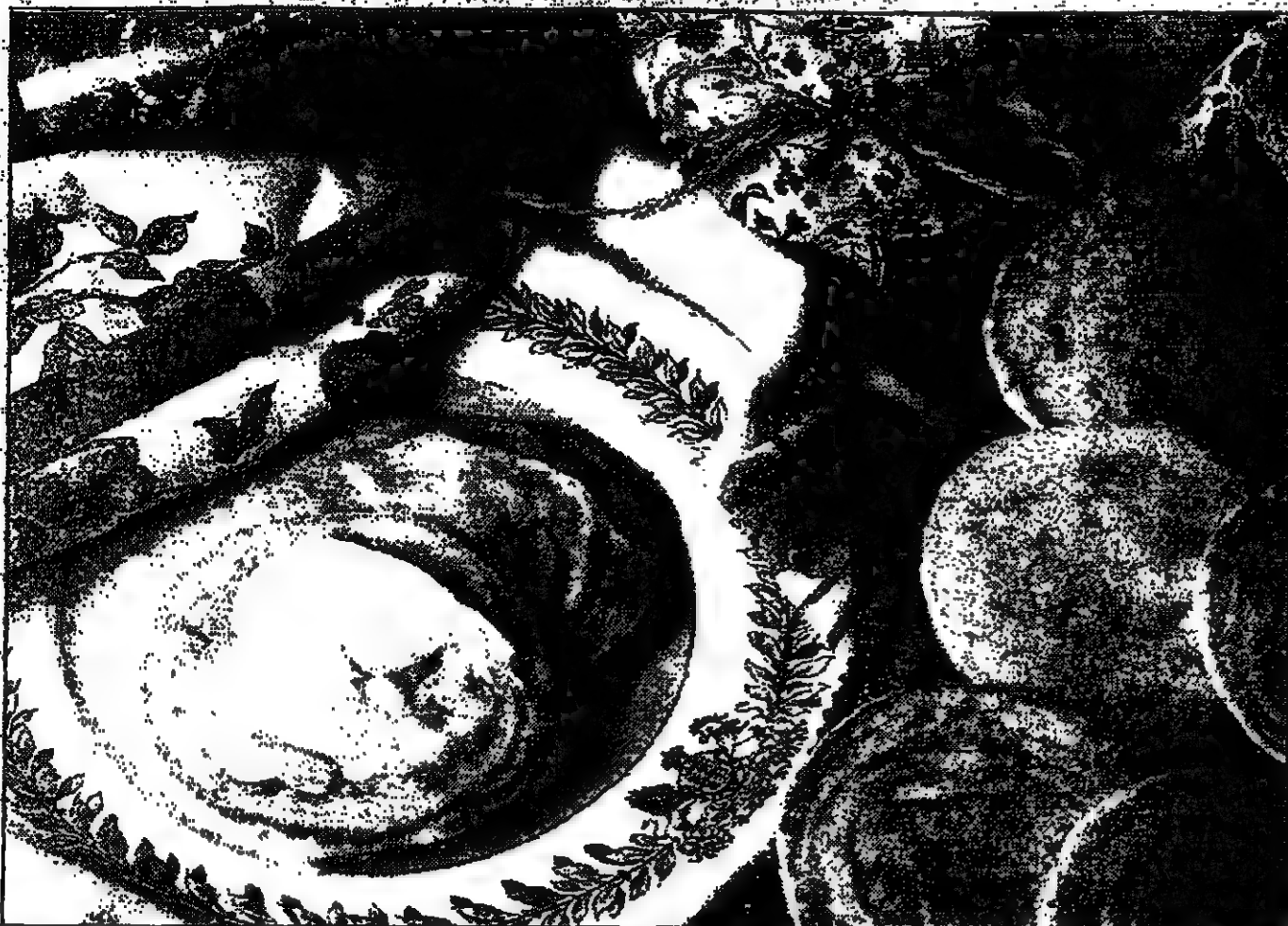
The Jerusalem Open House holds its First National Assembly of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Overseas Students and recent grads tonight. Call (02) 563-7486.

And Points Beyond

Haifa gives the Moor an Israeli accent in its recent production of *Othello*. Enjoy the fantastic Haifa setting for this classic drama, tonight at 8:30 at Haifa's Stage 2 (04) 862-0670.

For first dates and other romantic, the combination of Jaffa and the Jaffa Music Center (10 Shariit Yisrael) hosts Sound and Rhythm Arrangements, an evening of jazz with drummer and composer Yossi (Pappo) Levy and his colleagues from the Israeli saxophone quartet, an Israeli trombone quartet and others at 8:30 p.m. Call (03) 682-8393.

Weekender Food & Drink



Reel food

Because movies are on everybody's mind this month, Karen A. Levin decided to point out some tasty cinematic moments.

March is Oscar month, when Hollywood salutes its best movies. In honor of this star-studded event, we decided to take a critical look at the movies, too. Only we're not handing out gold statuettes. Instead, we're giving out recipes. These are dishes that have appeared in some of our favorite films. We've lightened them for today's audiences. And in some cases, we've reformatted and even colorized them.

Feeling we'd rather salute outstanding individual performances by a dish in a leading or supporting category, we eschewed recreating menus and banquets. That left out Albert Finney and Joan Greenwood's lusty dinner-table scene in *Tom Jones*. Barbra Streisand singing "Love With All the Trimmings" to her handsome dinner companion in *On a Clear Day You Can See Forever*, and anything from *Babe's Feast*; besides, it's so hard to get live sea turtles home from the market.

We don't know who the Oscar winners will be on Monday. But we already know what our food choices are. As they say in Hollywood, "And the recipe goes to..."

MYSTIC PIZZA

This pizza is our version of the ones served in the romantic comedy by the same name. In it, Leonardo DiCaprio, the owner of a local pizza parlor, closely guards her family's secret recipe that's made with a secret blend of Portuguese spices. Julia Roberts plays a waitress who dates Adam Siorke.

1 1/2 cups flour, divided
1 tsp. sugar
25 gr. shmirit yeast
1/2 cup warm water (40°-46°C)
1 tsp. olive oil
1/2 tsp. salt, divided
cooking spray
2 tsp. cornmeal
3 garlic cloves, minced
1 Tbsp. chopped fresh or 1 tsp. dried oregano
1 Tbsp. minced fresh coriander
1/4 tsp. fennel seeds
1/4 tsp. crushed red pepper
250 gr. can tomato sauce
1 1/2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese

Lightly spoon flour into a dry measuring cup; level with a knife.

Dissolve sugar and yeast in warm water in a large bowl; let stand 5 minutes. Add 1 1/4 cups flour, oil and 1/2 tsp. salt and stir to form a soft dough.

Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface. Knead until smooth and elastic (about 10 minutes); add enough of remaining flour, 1 Tbsp. at a time, to prevent dough from sticking to hands. Place dough in a bowl coated with cooking spray, turning it to coat the top. Cover dough and let it rise

in a warm place (30°C), free from drafts, for 30 minutes or until doubled in bulk.

Preheat oven to 230°. Punch dough down and roll it into a 30-cm. circle on a lightly floured surface. Place dough on a baking sheet or pizza pan coated with cooking spray and sprinkled with cornmeal. Crimp edges of dough to form a rim. Let dough stand, covered, 10 minutes.

Place a small saucepan coated with cooking spray over medium heat until hot. Add garlic and sauté 2 minutes. Add 1/4 tsp. salt, oregano, coriander, fennel seeds, pepper and tomato sauce; reduce heat and simmer, uncovered, 20 minutes or until mixture is thick, stirring occasionally.

Spread sauce over pizza crust and sprinkle with cheese. Bake at 230° for 10 minutes or until cheese is melted and crust is golden. Remove pizza to cutting board and cut into wedges. (Serves 6.)

GROUNDHOG DAY BUTTERMILK PANCAKES

Bill Murray is a cynical weatherman who relives the same day over and over again in the comedy *Groundhog Day*. After visiting the same restaurant for breakfast each day, he winds up ordering everything on the menu, from pancakes to angel food cake. Andie MacDowell watches in horror.

1 cup flour
1 tsp. sugar
1 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. salt
1 1/2 cups buttermilk
1 Tbsp. margarine or butter, melted
1 large egg white
cooking food
1/2 cup maple syrup

Lightly spoon flour into a dry measuring cup; level with a knife. Combine flour and next 4 ingredients (flour through salt). Combine buttermilk, margarine and egg white. Add to flour mixture, stirring until smooth.

Spoon about 1/4 cup pancake batter onto a hot nonstick griddle or nonstick skillet coated with cooking spray. Turn pancakes when tops are covered with bubbles and edges look cooked (about 2 minutes).

Serve with maple syrup. (Serves 4.)

LADY AND THE TRAMP SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALLS

We've based this recipe on Disney's classic animated flick *Lady and the Tramp*, which is about a romantic relationship between a lovable mongrel and a purebred cocker spaniel. In one scene, *Tramp* and *Lady* gaze adoringly at each other as they share a plate of spaghetti and meatballs.

1/2 kg. ground meat
1/4 cup minced fresh onion
2 Tbsp. dry bread crumbs
1/4 tsp. garlic salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
1 large egg white, lightly beaten
750 gr. jar tomato-and-basil pasta sauce, divided
cooking spray
5 cups hot cooked spaghetti
5 Tbsp. chopped fresh basil
5 Tbsp. grated Parmesan cheese (optional)

Combine the first 6 ingredients and 2 Tbsp. pasta sauce in a medium bowl. Shape the meat mixture into 25 meatballs, about 2.5 cm. in diameter.

Place a large nonstick skillet coated with cooking spray over medium heat until hot. Add the meatballs and cook 6 minutes, browning them on all sides. Stir in remaining pasta sauce. Cover, reduce heat and simmer 10 minutes or until the meatballs are done, stirring occasionally. Serve the meatballs over spaghetti and sprinkle with fresh basil and Parmesan cheese, if desired. (Serves 5.)

FRIED GREEN TOMATOES BANANA CREAM PIE

In *Fried Green Tomatoes*, Mary-Louise Parker and Mary Stuart Masterson cook up a laundry list of freshly baked pies like this one.

1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs
3 Tbsp. margarine, melted
2 Tbsp. sugar
cooking spray
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup cornstarch
2 1/2 cups low-fat milk
2 large eggs, lightly beaten
1 large egg yolk, lightly beaten
2 Tbsp. vanilla extract
2 drops yellow food coloring
2 1/2 cups sliced ripe banana, divided
1 cup frozen whipped topping, thawed

Preheat oven to 160°.

Combine the first 3 ingredients in a medium bowl and toss with fork until moist. Press into bottom and up sides of a 23-cm. pie plate coated with cooking spray. Bake at 160° for 10 minutes; let cool.

Combine 1/2 cup sugar and cornstarch in a medium saucepan. Gradually add milk, stirring with a whisk. Bring to a boil over medium heat; cook 1 minute, stirring constantly. Let cool slightly and then gradually add milk mixture to eggs and egg yolk, stirring constantly with a whisk. Return milk mixture to pan; cook over medium heat until thick (about 4 minutes), stirring constantly. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla and food coloring.

Arrange 1 1/4 cups banana slices in bottom of prepared pie crust; pour half of custard over banana. Top with remaining banana slices and custard. Cover the surface of custard with plastic wrap and chill

4 hours. Remove plastic wrap and spread whipped topping over pie. (Serves 8.)

BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S CINNAMON TWISTS

Here's our take on the pastry that *Holly Golightly* (a.k.a. Audrey Hepburn) might have been munching on in the opening scene of *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. It takes place at dawn in front of the famous New York jewelry store's windows.

25 gr. shmirit yeast
1/4 cup warm water (40°-46°C)
3 cups flour, divided
1/2 cup warm low-fat milk (40°-46°C)
1/4 cup granulated sugar
1/2 cup margarine or butter, melted and divided
1/2 tsp. salt
1 large egg, lightly beaten
1/2 cup golden raisins
cooking spray
1/2 cup granulated sugar
2 tsp. ground cinnamon
1/2 cup sifted powdered sugar
2-3 tsp. low-fat milk
1/2 tsp. vanilla extract

Dissolve yeast in warm water in a large bowl; let stand 5 minutes. Lightly spoon flour into dry measuring cups; level with a knife.

In a large mixing bowl, combine yeast mixture, 2 cups flour, 1/2 cup milk, 1/4 cup granulated sugar, 2 Tbsp. margarine, salt and egg and beat with a mixer at medium speed until smooth. Stir in 1/2 cup flour and raisins to form a soft dough.

Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface. Knead until smooth and elastic (about 8 minutes); add enough of remaining flour, 1 Tbsp. at a time, to prevent dough from sticking to hands.

Place dough in a large bowl coated with cooking spray, turning to coat top. Cover and let rise in a warm place (30°C), free from drafts, 1 hour or until doubled in bulk. Punch dough down.

Roll dough into a 30 cm. square on a lightly floured surface. Brush dough with 2 Tbsp. margarine. Combine 1/2 cup granulated sugar and cinnamon and sprinkle over dough.

Cut dough in half crosswise. Cut each rectangle lengthwise into 12 strips. Place 2 strips together and twist. Pinch ends to seal. Place twist on a large baking sheet coated with cooking spray. Gently press ends to baking sheet. Repeat procedure with the remaining dough. Cover and let rise for 30 minutes or until doubled in bulk.

Preheat oven to 175°C. Uncover dough. Bake at 175°C for 15 minutes or until browned.

Remove from pan and cool on wire racks. Combine powdered sugar, 2-3 tsp. milk and vanilla in a bowl; stir well. Drizzle over twists. (Makes 12 twists.)

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By PHYLLIS GLAZER

Pastramamja (avoid, except on special occasions)

How do you grade a food that tastes good, but isn't good for you? And what exactly does "home smoked" mean? The label on Soglowek's

Pastramamja says the turkey-breast meat is "naturally smoked" — I guess that's opposed to the chemical smoke flavor that is put in most other meats. Whatever it means, the flavor is good, as is the consistency. It reminds me of the pastrami (except that was beef) that my mother used to buy in New York and bake in the oven with apricot jam rubbed into it.

Unfortunately, despite its creativity, Soglowek still has not managed to create a product that is actually good for you. Pastramamja contains the same nitrates, phosphates and monosodium glutamate as the cheapest smoked meats on the market.

The turkey-breast meat covered in spices is sold by weight in the deli section of supermarkets. Other meats in the series include Pastramamja with honey; Pastramamja with paprika; onion-scented Pastramamja;

American grill Pastramamja; and Pastramamja with walnuts. 100 gr. cost NIS 5.60.

Pink grapefruit drink (avoid)

Yaffora Tabouli has added a new drink to its Tapuzina line. The new flavor — pink grapefruit — is enriched with vitamin C. Sold in 1.5 liter bottles for NIS 4.50-5.50, it is also sold in half-liter bottles at grocery stores for NIS 3.00 and at kiosks for NIS 4 to NIS 5. For that price, you get a container of sugar, some pink grapefruit juice, flavorings, aromatic materials and preservatives. Are you sure you really want to put that in your body?

Shit-ta-ker (expensive)

Shit-ta-ker is called a nutritional supplement rather than a vitamin. It is extracted from the Shiitake mushroom, which is called "Substance of Life" in China and is part of the family of 15 forest mushrooms called shiitake. It contains amino acids, vitamins, rare polysaccharides, B vitamins and lentin, which according to *The Lancet* medical journal, helps improve the immune system. A study done by the University of Michigan has also shown that elderly people who consumed two shit-ta-ker pills a day had a 9% decrease in cholesterol. Other tests have shown that the supplement could be helpful to those suffering from chronic tiredness syndrome, cancer, respiratory difficulties and allergies. It is kosher, with certifica-

tion from Badatz and Va'ad Kashrut Haradi Jerusalem. A container of 48 capsules (17 gr.) costs NIS 99.

Kapulsky's hamentashen (OK)

Although Purim is over, you still can buy hamentashen at Kapulsky cafes. This year, the chain is offering chocolate, poppy seed, date, walnut and fig-filled hamentashen for NIS 32 to NIS 38 a kilogram. We tasted the ones with the fig filling, and they were OK. But there's still nothing like homemade.

Garlic tips

Kibbutz Dorot, which produces fresh giant elephant garlic and frozen crushed fresh garlic, offers the following tips to consumers:

• Always store fresh garlic in a well-ventilated area, not in a closed jar and not in the refrigerator. (Dorot's crushed garlic should be stored in the freezer.)

• Use garlic before it sprouts. When green leaves begin to grow the quality and "punch" of the garlic is greatly lessened, as the aroma and active ingredients pass into the sprout.

• If you sauté garlic, do so for a short time only — frying garlic makes it lose much of its flavor. (The flavor passes into the oil used for frying.)

• Use garlic to help treat cuts and prevent infection by rubbing a clove on the cut. It will sting, but help.

• Swallow a whole, peeled garlic clove to help a sore throat.



By PHYLLIS GLAZER

With regard to the request of Esther Friedman of Netanya for parve shmaltz (Feedback, March 5), here is a recipe straight from the *International Goodwill Recipe Book*, published by the Johannesburg Women's Zionist League in 1969. My mother, Rita Hirsfield, used to make this for Pesach, when we lived in Kenya. It was very popular with one and all in those days, when everything was made from scratch.

— Ora Lesheim, Tel Aviv

I am publishing your recipe, with adjustments for the metric system. It sounds like it probably is quite tasty.

PARVE SHMALTZ

500 gr. vegetable fat (margarine or Crisco)
1 bottle salad oil (not olive oil)
500 gr. onions, chopped
1 1/2 cups finely grated carrots

Boil together the fat, oil, onions and carrots till the onions are

lightly browned. Strain, cool and pour into sterilized jars. Store in a refrigerator.

My wife has bought and tried to cook commercially stuffed kishke a number of times. But each time, we ended up with a burst kishke with the stuffing outside and the casing looking like a mad scientist's experiment gone wrong. Please help her so that her husband can enjoy a piece of kishke just like ma used to make.

— Ralph Tropier, Rehovot

According to Hilton Hotel Chef Avigdor Bruch, your wife should bake the kishke at medium heat (180°C) for 10-15 minutes on a baking sheet that is lightly greased or covered with parchment paper. Remove, bring to room temperature or chill, slice and put in the chulent.

Why do recipes for baked goods always say to preheat the oven? Why can't we start baking in a cold oven and let it heat up at its own pace? How long does it take to preheat an oven?

— Eddie Savnik, Tel Aviv

Most recipes for baked goods call for preheating the oven because giving the baking product a blast of high heat helps it to form a crust and, in the case of cakes with baking powder, encourages them to rise. Preheating takes 15-

20 minutes, depending on the type of oven. Incidentally, it is a good idea to own an oven thermometer so you can check if your oven is heating up to the desired temperature, and check if the temperature on the dial matches the one in the oven.

Do olives have any nutritional value? Is there a difference in nutritional value between green and black olives?

— Freida Schneider, Netanya

The folks at Beit Hashita, the olive experts, gave me the following information. It applies to 100 gr. olives with pits.

	green olives	black olives
calories	82	92
protein	0.7 gr.	0.67 gr.
fat	8.8 gr.	8.54 gr.
calcium	49 mg.	70 mg.
iron	0.8 mg.	2.64 mg.
magnesium	18 mg.	3 mg.
phosphorus	73 mg.	6 mg.
sodium	1800 mg.	698 mg.
copper	0.18 mg.	0.20 mg.

Olives have no cholesterol.

Phyllis Glazer can be contacted at The Jerusalem Post Magazine, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem, 91000, or by E-mail: phyllisglazer@jpost.co.il

Do not send stamped, self-addressed envelopes, as inquiries cannot be answered individually. Feedback also appears in The Jerusalem Post Magazine on Friday.

Wine Cellar

New wine in new bottles

By NOGA TARNOPOLSKY

Binayama's venerable Baron Winery is beginning a transformation which will turn it, slowly but surely, into the Tishbi Winery, moving conceptually away from its roots with the Baron de Rothschild, and closer to the descendants who own and run the establishment today. The name change is accompanied by a significant packaging change: Tishbi wine bottles are now sporting new, South African-designed labels that incorporate the traditional photographs of the founders with a simple, clean, and very modern look.

The revamped bottles are now being released to the market. Tishbi will eventually present four series of wines (note the emphasis on the name): Yonatan Tishbi, Tishbi Estate, Tishbi, and Habaron.

(The name change reminds me of a minor marketing revolution that took place about 15 years ago, when the Japanese car maker Datsun changed its name to Nissan; its first step was to introduce a model called the Datsun Nissan.)

Four Tishbi wines are currently being released: Emerald Riesling is the most popular wine in Israel, though it is by and large unknown or ignored in other parts of the world. Tishbi's Emerald Riesling 1997 is a fine example: floral, relatively (though not cloyingly) sweet, and pleasant as a light, not overly complex wine.

The Sauvignon Blanc 1997 contains the delicate (and proper) astringency of this varietal, is very light in color, and, again, is pleasant and appropriate while not achieving a notable variety of flavors and aromas.

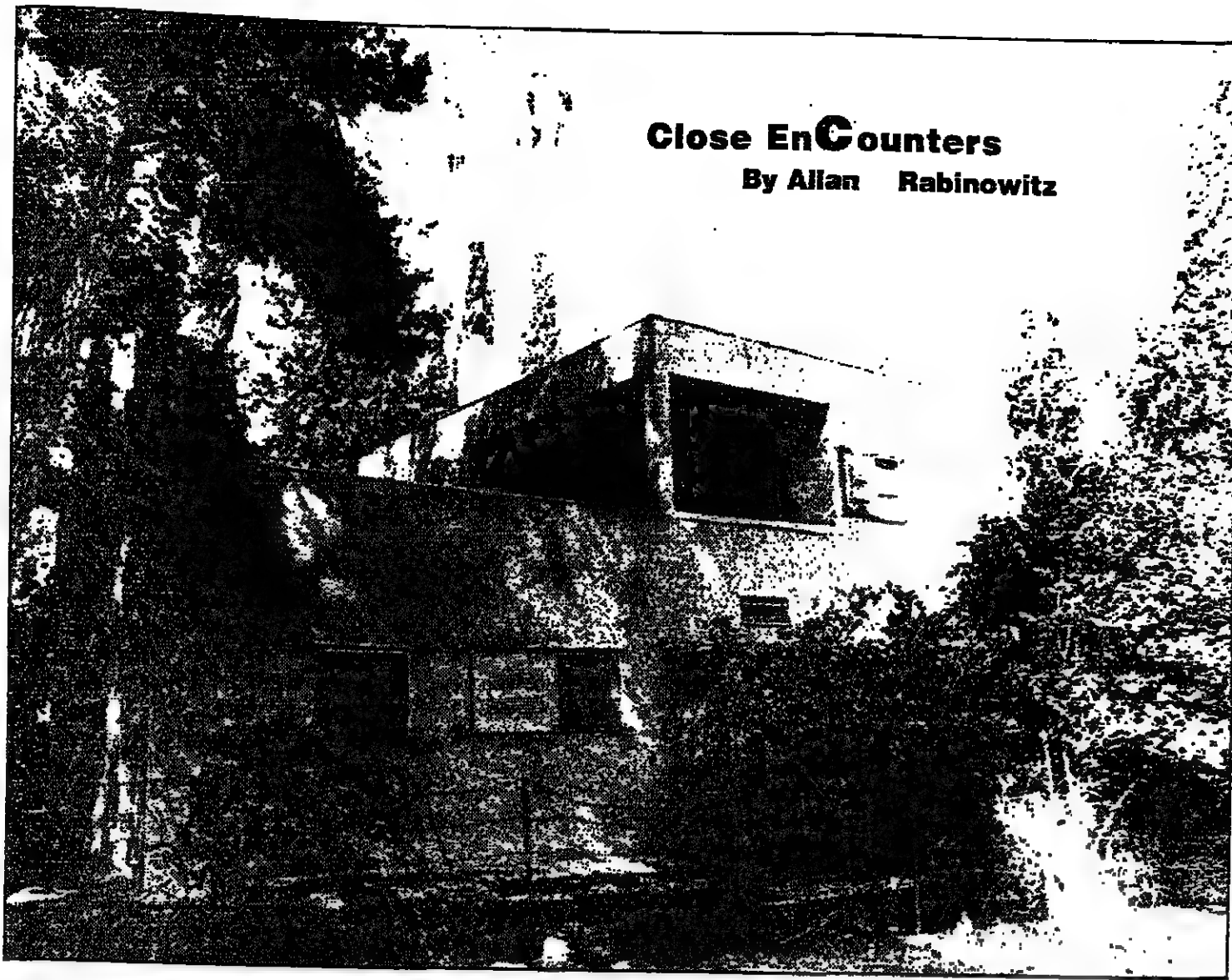
The red wines currently being presented to the market are both likely to find welcoming customers. The Tishbi Estate Merlot 1996 is a round, well-bodied wine with a deep red color that opens nicely once decanted into glasses. And the Cabernet Sauvignon 1996, perhaps the most pleasing of Tishbi's wines this year, is sophisticated and full-bodied, with a good balance of berry flavors and the aroma of wood.

The Barkan winery's another well-established Israeli winery currently engaged in changing both its image and its label. Barkan is introducing a new line of wines, its top-level series, called Barkan Classic. The line comprises an Emerald Riesling, a Cabernet Sauvignon, a Chardonnay, a Sauvignon Blanc, and a Cabernet Blush. This last is a less common semi-dry wine produced by allowing the Cabernet grapes to have only the briefest of contact with the skins after they are crushed. The Cabernet Blush is characterized by its clear pink color — a shade darker than most other blush wines on the market.

The labels of this series are striking, not only for their noticeably asymmetrical shape, but for the lively, lucky-blue depictions of a different antique jug on each one, and the matching blue capsules covering the cork. The origin of each jug is explained on the back label.

The Emerald Riesling of this series stands out as a particularly successful wine, with just enough acidity to make the natural sweetness of this varietal, and with a pleasing aroma reminiscent of blossoms. But all of the wines are well-worth trying, especially the Cabernet Sauvignon and the Chardonnay.

Dr. M. 150



Close Encounters
By Allan Rabinowitz

In 1931, S.Y. Agnon moved into this home: 'I built for myself a house and planted a garden on the very place where the enemy sought to dislodge me. I built the house facing the Temple Mount, so as to recall our Desirable Edifice which is yet to be rebuilt.' (Rahamin Israeli)

The house that Agnon built

In 1966, S.Y. Agnon was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature. It was a magnificent achievement. He worked in and emerged from a Jewish state not yet 20 years old, writing in an ancient, holy language that had been dusted off and transformed into a modern spoken tongue less than 100 years earlier.

Steeped in Midrash, Bible and Talmud, ranging from folkish parables to modernistic streams-of-consciousness, and using both simple and multi-layered prose, Agnon embraced and explored the experience and history of the Jewish people.

That included, for him, growing up in exile in the town of Buczacz in eastern Galicia, where he was born in 1888. But he regarded himself "as one who was born in Jerusalem," he said in his Nobel laureate speech.

In Jerusalem, in the southern neighborhood of Talpuz, the stucco house where Agnon lived and worked for almost 40 years, until his death in 1970, stands as a memorial and museum. Part of the downstairs living quarters and upstairs workroom are preserved as they were when the Agnon family lived here.

The tiny living room, with original furniture, reveals a simplicity which is almost spartan. There

stands a small wooden table with its lace tablecloth, with wooden folding chairs around it and one discolored, stiff-backed easy chair in the corner. A built-in wood-burning stove, covered in ceramic tiles, heated both the living room and dining nook. The three small, partitioned bedrooms were gutted to form a small auditorium. A film shows at the house/museum details Agnon's life and work.

Upstairs was Agnon's private realm. Awakening at dawn, he said his morning prayers and then climbed to the library/office, where he wrote until noon.

Floor-to-ceiling metal (fire-proof) bookshelves line this room, packed with Jewish books: Bible and biblical exegeses, Talmudic and Gaonic literature, medieval Hebrew poetry, ethical tracts, folk tales, Midrash.

Above the main door, near the patch of wall left unfinished as a reminder of the destruction of the Temple, are packed volumes of Kabbalistic literature, stuffed with paper markers. Prayerbooks are shelved in a small wooden packing crate. The office is still laced with the smell of old books. Some rare editions date back to the 17th century (Agnon haunted used-book shops and often purchased books "with money set aside from

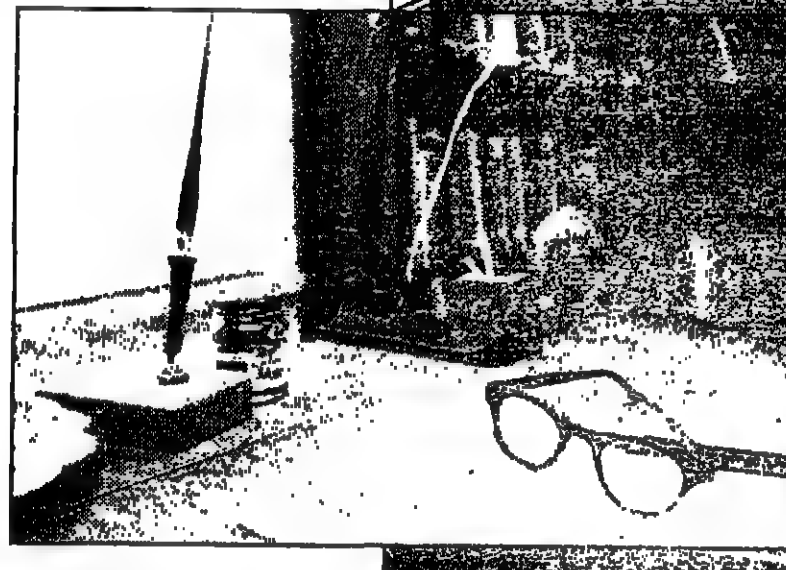
my daily bread").

Such Jewish "Sacred Scriptures," Agnon said, gave him his foundations, "and my heart tells me that it is they who recommended that I be honored with the Nobel Prize." In addition there are reference books, books on Zionism, the land of Israel, on Yiddish and modern Hebrew literature. And a small adjoining room, where he kept a cot for resting, is filled with additional books, in German.

He worked within this sanctuary of books. But some of his most traumatic experiences revolved around the loss of books and the homes that held them.

DURING WORLD War I, Agnon's childhood home was destroyed, along with his earliest library and manuscripts. While living in Germany in the 1920s (he had left Palestine for Germany in 1912, and married and started a family there), a fire destroyed his rented home while he was in the hospital. The flames consumed 4,000 Hebrew volumes and all his manuscripts.

Agnon was convinced he had carried too long in exile: "God gave me the wisdom to return to Jerusalem," he said in his Nobel Prize speech. "I returned to Jerusalem and it is by virtue of Jerusalem that I have written all



(Above) At a polished wood podium Agnon wrote by hand in a standing position; (Inset) His fountain pens and glasses still sit on this podium. (Photos: Sarit Uziely)

their hearts desired, as if in... land had been given to them alone." It was one of his simple tales which was not so simple, interpreted by some critics as an allegory concerning relations with his Arab neighbors after the war.

But wind or no wind, Agnon chose to remain in Talpuz, and the house he built and moved into in 1931 also appeared in a story, "The Sign": "With God's mercy upon us we rallied... and I built for myself a house and planted a garden on the very place where the enemy sought to dislodge me. I built the house facing the Temple Mount, so as to recall our Desirable Edifice

which is yet to be rebuilt." Indeed, Agnon could gaze from the roof of his house across the ridge toward the Temple Mount. After the creation of the State of Israel, of course, he was gazing across a border he could no longer cross. The border with Jordan, in fact, passed very near his house until 1967, and bullet holes scar some of his shutters.

At a polished wood podium, near a wood-burning stove, he wrote by hand in a standing position. His fountain pens and glasses still sit upon this podium, where a genius steeped in the sources and experience of Judaism brewed and bubbled. On this podium, too, Agnon in

the late '30s and early '40s wrote the modernistic, surrealistic, anguished stories of the Book of Deeds. Against the background of Jewish suffering in Europe, wrote the scholar Nahum Glazer, Agnon "must have felt compelled to abandon the form of the well-composed tale," for "the experience of chaos."

The Agnon House (16 Klausner St.) is open Mon.-Thurs., 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. The No. 7 bus stops nearby. Group tours are available. There are public lectures and readings. (02) 671-6498.

Allan Rabinowitz is a licensed tour guide.

Mikvas, mezuzas and Mickey Mouse

They used to call it the "Mickey Mouse" fort. The structure at the entrance to Gush Etzion was actually a Jordanian police station until the Six Day War. The name ostensibly refers to the round turrets which give the building more of a Walt Disney quality than the fighting quality of a former

defense outpost. For many years the army used it as a training site.

Today, after considerable renovations, the building has become the Etzion Judaica Center. In practice, it is a shop where you can buy Jewish ritual objects made by local artists, but the prices for most items would discourage all but the very wealthy. The Center

Day Tripper

By Haim Shapira

has become a showcase for contemporary trends in the creation of Judaica.

You can reach the Center, and Gush Etzion, via the tunnel high-

way from Jerusalem, a 10-minute drive from the outskirts of the city. It is located just behind the gas station at the Gush Etzion Junction.

If you visit the Center, disregard the rather kitschy dolls on the stairs and go up to the second floor, where some of the more unusual items are displayed. There is also a door leading to the terrace, which affords a fine view of the area.

To see where the Judaica items are produced, follow the highway into Gush Etzion until you come to Bat Ayin, a community of newly religious free spirits, many of them former kibbutzniks. This is home to many of the artists and artisans whose works are displayed in the Center. It is indicative of the spirit of Bat Ayin that although there is an elaborate electronically operated gate at the entrance, there is no security fence around the community. Anyone who wants to can walk in.

Just beyond this gate are the excavated remains of a Jewish agricultural community which flourished from the first century BCE to the second century CE. The remains include an easily identifiable mikve, or ritual bath,

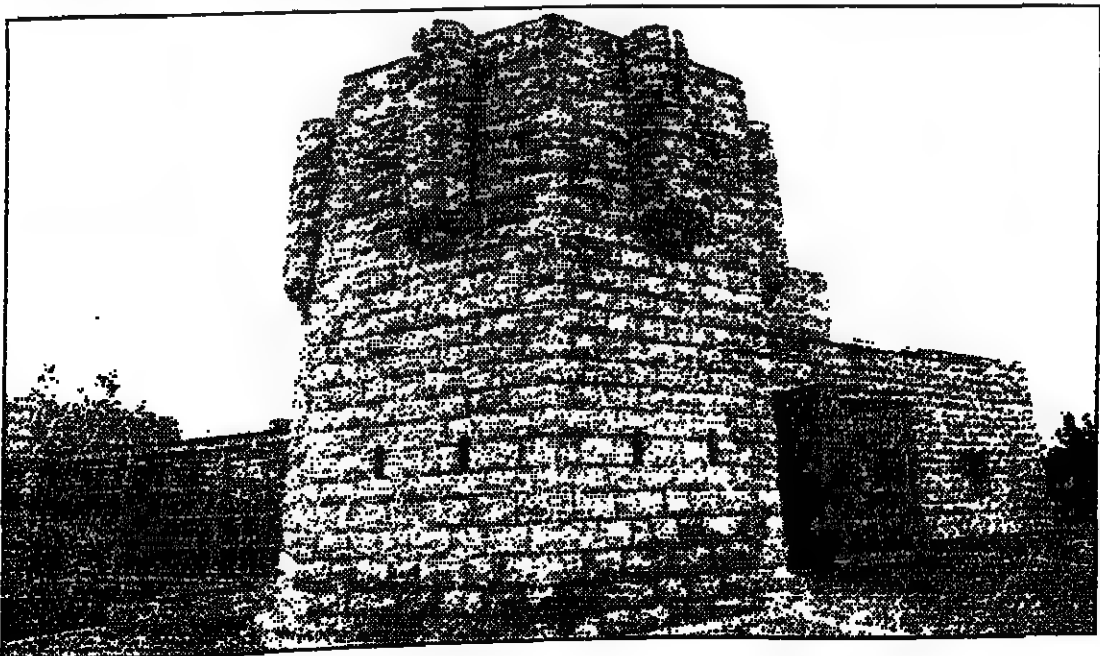
as well as an olive press cut out of the rock. Since there are other olive presses with a mikve alongside them in the area, there is a theory that the oil pressed here was used in the Temple in

Jerusalem and that those who produced it purified themselves first.

From the excavation area, you can see, across the valley, a domed building which marks an ancient spring, Ein Sejma. You can also see two roads, leading to the spring - one above it and one below it. Although it is not a long walk to the spring, both roads are accessi-

ble by car.

The Judaica Center is open Sunday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (until 2 p.m. after April 1). Entrance is free. You can walk into Bat Ayin or visit the spring at any time, but since the residents of the area are religious, you might not want to drive there on Shabbat.



Despite the fact that the structure at the entrance to Gush Etzion served as an army training center and a Jordanian police station, the round turrets on the fort give the building a certain Walt Disney feel. (Photos: Sarit Uziely)



An exhibit of copperware at the Gush Etzion Judaica Center

Thursday,
March 19, 1998

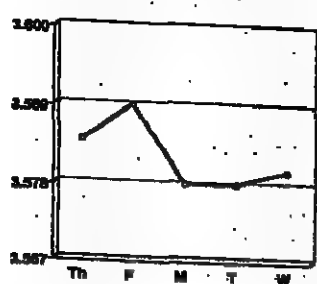
BUSINESS & FINANCE

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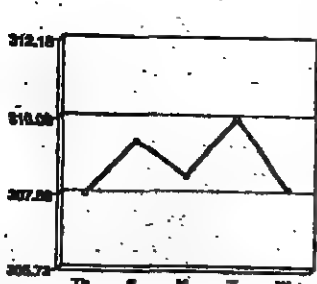
MARKETS

in brief

DOLLAR / SHEKEL



MAOF INDEX



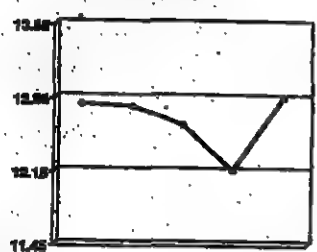
GOLD

\$ per ounce

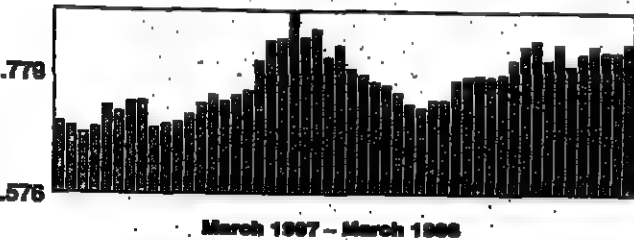


OIL

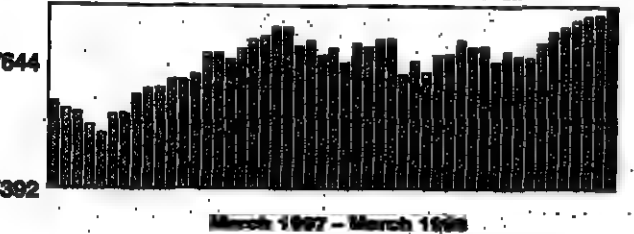
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



Industry loses NIS 40m. from short summer time

The short daylight saving time period costs industry NIS 40 million in extra electricity costs, Manufacturers Association director-general Yoram Belizovsky said yesterday.

In a letter to Interior Minister Eli Suissa, Belizovsky called for the extension of daylight saving time by 100 days for a total of nine months instead of 170 days. This year, daylight saving time begins tonight at midnight and is set to end on September 5. According to Belizovsky, early nightfall costs industry extra expense in electricity and cuts down productivity in the economy. An extra daylight hour has also been proven to cut down on road accidents, he added.

Nina Gilbert

IDB raises stake in Y.L.R.

IDB Holding Corp. yesterday said that it has increased its holdings in Y.L.R. Capital Markets by 18 percent for NIS 17.7 million, reflecting a price which is 8% higher than the share price on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

The shares were purchased from Y.L.R. CEO Yosi Taicher and the company's vice chairman Yitzhak Zauberman. In a statement, the company said that both executives will leave for private business. IDB, which owns now 58% of Y.L.R., said it plans to sell its holding in the investment company to Janot Batucha Investment House.

Dan Gerstenfeld

UPS to launch daily flight

UPS will soon begin operating a daily cargo flight to Israel, the company said. The company began operating flights three years ago and now holds 20% of the outgoing express market and 17% of incoming deliveries. The company is also to invest NIS 3m. in its processing operations here this year.

Nina Gilbert

Geotek posts \$242m. loss for '97

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Geotek Communications, the beleaguered maker of wireless communications systems, yesterday announced a loss unprecedented by an Israeli high-tech company of \$242 million in 1997, compared with a loss of \$146m. a year earlier.

In a statement, the company said that the loss includes one-time costs associated with the reduction of the company's investment in its German joint venture to fair market value, certain charges associated with

portable radio and switch development and corporate restructuring charges.

The New Jersey-based company develops its systems, used by transportation and distribution companies, at its R&D facility in Yokne'am.

Geotek abstained from publishing fourth-quarter results. However, the annual report indicates that the company lost \$100m. in the quarter, nearly double the loss incurred in the third quarter.

Geotek recently sold assets in Europe for \$85 million, as well as

its holdings in Bogen Communications for \$103 million.

Revenues increased 41% last year to \$65.5 million compared with \$46.5 million 1996, mostly due to increased customers on the US network, National Band Three (NB3), and other international activities.

The company's Nasdaq-traded stock peaked at \$14 in May 1996. Since then it has been on a continual decline, trading at \$2.50 yesterday in New York.

The company generated an operating loss of \$161.5m. for the year compared to a loss of \$96.6m. in

1996. The increased loss was primarily due to costs related to ongoing roll-out and enhancements to the digital wireless communication system in the US.

Despite the bleak 1997 performance, company CEO and chairman Yaron Eitan was optimistic.

"1997 was a year of growth, development and challenge for Geotek. We made the transition from a research and development company to an operating company - and we began putting customers on our network. We made important inroads operationally, engaging in a series of programs

that improved our product and our network. Further, we extended our reach by expanding existing markets and adding new markets."

As of the end of 1997, the company had 12,500 subscribers in the US, and at the end of January, the company had 15,000 subscribers.

In the fourth quarter of 1997, the company announced its strategic initiative to focus its resources on the US market.

Geotek currently serves over 800 customers across the US including Airborne Express, US Postal Service and Pepsi.



IMF seeks way to aid Indonesia

A security guard unloads bundles of 10,000 rupiah notes before they are deposited into the Central Bank of Indonesia in downtown Jakarta. A high-ranking International Monetary Fund delegation was in Jakarta to discuss ways of helping the country out of its worst economic crisis in decades.

(Reuters)

Barak 4th-quarter losses fall 24% to NIS 65m.

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Barak I.T.C. yesterday said that its net loss decreased 24 percent in the fourth quarter of 1997 to NIS 64.8 million, from a net loss of NIS 87.1m. in the third quarter.

The company, which is one of the three suppliers of overseas telephone services, said that fourth-quarter revenues rose 28% to NIS 63.8m., from NIS 49.7m.

in the third quarter.

Barak began offering services last July and the company said it had gained an estimated market share of 25%.

Revenues for the year were NIS 113.5m., while net loss was NIS 188.4. It should be noted, however, that all revenues were derived during the second half of 1997.

Barak is considered the company which offers the cheapest rates.

In December, Barak suspended service for non-subscribers to several destinations in Latin America, Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe. The Ministry of Communications has instructed Barak to restore these services by the beginning of April.

Alan Gelman, Barak's chief financial officer, said sales, marketing, administrative and other expenses were substantially lower in the fourth quarter.

Barak CEO Avi Patir said that the bottom line should improve during 1998 as an outcome of a decrease in fees paid to Bezeq Israel Telecom and foreign carriers.

Gelman noted, however, that during the initial years the company expects to incur substantial net operating losses and show negative cash flows. Barak expects to become a major provider of Internet and data services, he added.

Sharansky to visit Turkey in bid to boost trade

By NINA GILBERT

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky is to visit Turkey next week for a series of meetings aimed at boosting trade ties and advancing opportunities for Israeli companies to invest in projects there, the ministry announced yesterday.

Sharansky - who is to be accompanied by a delegation of leading industrialists in the communications, agriculture, infrastructure, medical equipment and defense sectors - will hold talks with the Turkish ministers of foreign trade, health, transport, and communications.

He is to explore with the ministers the possibility of Israeli companies taking part in the GAP infrastructure development project in southern Turkey and in joint ventures with Turkish companies.

The Turkish government is investing \$32 billion in the energy and land reclamation project.

A number of Israeli companies are interested in taking part in agricultural aspects of the project, including irrigation. He will also open the annual meeting of the Israel-Turkey business council and the joint Turkey-Israel economic committee.

El Al to buy 24% of Dankner-Fischer

By HAIM SHAPIRO

In what appears to represent a trend for airlines to buy into tourist-related industries, El Al confirmed yesterday that its board has authorized the airline to acquire up to 24 percent of the Dankner-Fischer group, which has interests in a local airline, as well as the representatives for many foreign airlines.

In a related development, Arkia Knafaim Holdings, part of the Arkia conglomerate, revealed yesterday that it has invested in an airline services company, and two wholesale travel companies. The investments not only had strategic value, but had also rendered a good return, the company said.

The Arkia announcement said that Knafaim had invested in Maman, which provides ground services for airlines; in Issta, which specializes in travel for students and young people, and in Aviation Links, which deals mainly in organizing charter flights.

The three companies had had a combined dividend during the January-to-May period of NIS 24.5 million, while the Knafaim share had been NIS 5.5m. Of the latter sum, NIS 3.7m. had come

from Maman, NIS 1m. from Issta and NIS 841,000 from Aviation Links.

An El Al official said yesterday that the planned Dankner-Fischer acquisition was an indication of the airline's confidence in the tourism market.

The group holds 42.5% of the shares of Israi, which last year began flying between Tel Aviv and Eilat, 40% of the shares of Open Skies, which represents over 30 foreign airlines in Israel, and 11% of the shares of Natour, one of the country's leading wholesale tour organizers.

The group is also negotiating the purchase of 27% of the shares of Flying Carpet, another tour wholesaler.

Meanwhile, Yossi Englander, the director and founder of Yossi Tours, another major tourism wholesaler, announced that he was resigning from the company, following its sale to Keren Gal.

Sheba Medical Center
Tel Hashomer
Buildings, Property, Stores and Maintenance Department

Bids are invited for the tenders listed below. The bids should be submitted in accordance with the conditions set forth in the tender booklet (the supplementary page attached to each booklet forms an integral part of the tender conditions). The tender documents are available Sundays-Thursday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Buildings, Property, Stores and Maintenance Department, Booth 64B.

Tender No.	mem peh/98/24/mon tzaki/85
Subject	Annual contract for the supply of non-sterile latex gloves
Cost of tender documents (non-refundable)	NIS 700
NB	The final decision is subject to the approval of the professional bodies.
Last date for submitting bids	Sunday April 28, 1998 at 12 noon
Place at which bids should be submitted	Booth 64B, box number 1, at the Sheba Medical Center, Tel Hashomer

Minimum conditions:
The following documents should be included with bids:
(a) A bank guarantee for 10% of the value of the bid, plus VAT. The guarantee should be linked to the general index and must be valid for 90 days.
(b) Valid certification from an accountant in accordance with Income Tax regulations.
(c) Certification that accounts are kept as required by law, and certification of being an authorized trader for the purpose of VAT.

Bidders must sign a copy of the "General Conditions for the Supply of Goods" contract (according to paragraph 48 of the supplementary page).

We reserve the right to negotiate with tender participants whose bids are found suitable in the cases covered by Regulation 7(a) of the Tenders Law.

We do not undertake to accept the lowest bid or any part of it or any of the bids submitted. We are entitled to split the order and favor experienced bidders as detailed in the tender conditions, and are also entitled to cancel, suspend or reduce the scope of the tender for budgetary and/or administrative and/or organizational reasons.

Israel Airports Authority
Ben-Gurion International Airport

SUMMER TIME

Summer time begins tonight (Thursday, March 19, 1998), at midnight.

Passengers are advised to contact their airline to verify the departure time of their flight.

TARGET
(מטרה)
Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date:	17.3.98
Purchase Price:	134.18
Redemption Price:	133.14

PRIME
(פריים)
Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date:	17.3.98
Purchase Price:	118.89
Redemption Price:	118.25

Reading between the lines... you have time for trading action until 11 PM.

JOIN ISRAEL TELEBANK
DIAL 02-8129111 FROM 8 AM TO 11 PM

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

Israel Airports Authority
Land Border Terminals

During summer time in Israel, the border crossings between Israel and Jordan will operate according to Israeli time.

	LAST	CHANGE
Gold Futures	50	+1.75

LONDON

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Inside

Nuggets
on a roll

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Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

European Champions Cup
Manchester United 1, Monaco 1 (Monaco advances to semifinals on away goals rule).
Dinamo Kiev 1, Juventus 4 (Juventus win 5-2 on aggregate).
Real Madrid 3, Bayer Leverkusen 0 (Madrid win 4-1 on aggregate).
Borussia Dortmund vs. Bayern Munich. Not over by press deadline.

SCOREBOARD
Premier League: Newcastle 1, Crystal Palace 2. Division One: Swindon 0, Wolves 0. Scottish Cup, quarterfinal, replay: Dundee 1, Rangers 2.

Bergkamp
faces 3-match
suspension

LONDON (Reuters) — Dutch striker Dennis Bergkamp will miss another chunk of Arsenal's campaign for the English league and cup double after his sending-off against West Ham.

Bergkamp, who missed most of November through suspension, faces an automatic three-match ban after being dismissed for elbowing West Ham captain Steve Lomas in the face during their FA Cup quarter-final replay.

Arsenal won 4-3 on penalties after drawing 1-1 after extra time on Tuesday. They will play Wolverhampton Wanderers in the semifinal on April 5.

Some media reports suggested Bergkamp could get a longer ban, given his poor disciplinary record this season. The FA said yesterday it was awaiting the referee's report later this week before confirming the punishment.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger, who has lately had to make do without two injured England internationals, goalkeeper David Seaman and striker Ian Wright, was annoyed at losing Bergkamp as well.

Bergkamp, who can expect a fine of a week's wages — or £25,000 — from his club, was repentant about the foul which left Lomas with a bloody nose and reduced Arsenal to 10 men after 33 minutes.

"I was stupid and I've said sorry," he said. "I shouldn't have done it. But I did and now I must pay."

Bergkamp will miss the FA Cup semifinal and two Premier League matches, against Bolton on March 31 and Newcastle on April 11.

Gascoigne escapes fine for flute gesture
Rangers midfielder Paul Gascoigne escaped punishment on Wednesday over an inflammatory gesture to rival Celtic fans.

The Scottish Football Association reprimanded the England international but did not fine him for mimicking a flute player in a Protestant band.

The gesture is seen as highly provocative in a city where football fans are divided largely on sectarian grounds.

The SFA said it had been lenient to Gascoigne because he had already been fined £20,000 by Rangers. But it said the 30-year-old had been issued a "very severe warning."

"He has been left in no doubt that a repetition of this action will result in very severe consequences," an SFA official said.

Israel
stretches
win streak
to three

By ORI LEWIS

The national soccer side added a third notch to their winning streak after an important confidence-boosting 1-0 friendly victory over Romania in Bucharest yesterday.

Just as in Israel's last win in a friendly international, the 2-0 victory over Poland at home last month, and the earlier 4-0 home trouncing of Turkey the below-strength national side did everything needed to secure the win. Nothing more, nothing less.

It was not a great soccer performance, and while doubts remain whether the Israelis have what it takes to win when the chips are down (the first test will be in the European Championship qualifiers which begin in September), one thing is certain. The depth of the squad, their commitment to the cause and their teamwork have reached a level which has not been witnessed in recent times.

The lackluster Romanians were missing several of their star players (most importantly Gheorghe Hagi), but nevertheless, on paper, and playing at home in front of some 5,000 at the Steaua Bucharest stadium, they were expected to win.

In addition, the hosts are preparing for the World Cup finals, but on yesterday's showing, Israel looked like they were the World Cup qualifiers, with the hosts muddling through as the also-rans.

The opening minutes of the



THAT RUNDOWN FEELING — Romania's Iulian Filipescu (below) is brought down by David Amsalem (1) and Walid Badir.

match were no indication of what was to follow, as from the kick-off, the host side took the match to their opponents. After all, on

16 previous occasions that the Romanians had played Israel, they had lost only once, winning 10 and drawing the other five

encounters. For the first 12 minutes, the visitors kept Romania from getting a shot at Rafi Cohen's goal.

Then, in the 13th, the tables were turned as a throw-in taken by Najwan Grayev in the Romanian half went to Eli Abarbanel. He laid on a perfect through-ball to the in-form Alon Mizrahi, who beat his marker, Cristian Dulca, and shot high into the Romanian goal. The Romanians were shell shocked; as the goal, which came from nowhere, seemed to knock the stuffing out of the home team. The home crowd were equally deflated, as they began to cheer the unfortunate Dulca.

It was the type of strike which is so often seen in the National League — the sort which Mizrahi scores almost at will. It was his first in national colors. Try as they might, the Romanians' attempts to redress the balance were ineffective and Cohen and his solid defense of Amir Shelah, Ran Ben-Shimon, Alon Harazi and David Amsalem had little trouble in dealing with the opposition.

In the 29th minute, Israel might have gone 2-0 up as Jan Talasnikov let rip a thunderous shot from 20 meters at the Romanian goal.

But Dumitru Stingaciu made an acrobatic save to keep his side in the match. Cohen was tested only once in the match (he was substituted in the second period by Nir Davidovich) when he stood his ground to safely collect a flying header by Ovidiu Stingiu five minutes before halftime.

The second half saw more effective Romanian pressure as veteran striker Marius Lacatus came on as substitute for first-half playmaker Gabi Popescu. Lacatus upped the tempo and the pressure on the Israeli defense by creating dangerous situations and set pieces, although they ultimately came to naught.

Regardless of the result, any visiting scouts planning ahead for the World Cup in Bucharest yesterday will note that the wily old striker has lost none of his

touch and he will surely feature prominently in coach Anghel Iordanescu's plans for the finals in France this summer.

"To win in Romania is an historic achievement. Let's not forget that we were a very under-strength team playing against a star-studded side," Israeli coach Shlomo Scharf said afterwards. "I wish we could have played against Austria (in the European Championship qualifying competition) in a fortnight's time, let's hope that the players will be in top form in September. I hope that this run will continue."

Israel's goalscorer, Alon Mizrahi, believes the win bodes well for a positive future for the national side. "We have always had a problem in away games, but I believe we can win away from home and we must do so, even in the European Championship qualifiers," he said.

One must hope that this winning streak of friendlies is not a passing fad.

Romania: Dumitru Stingaciu; Iulian Filipescu; Gheorghe Popescu; Cristian Dulca; Tibor Selyester; Constantin Galca; Denis Serban; 73, Ovidiu Stingiu; (Gheorghe Grigoreanu 46); Dorinel Munteanu; (Dimitru Lupu 46); Gabi Popescu; (Lucian Marinescu 46); Radu Niculescu; (Marius Lacatus 46); Adrian Ilie (Alin Stoiciu 73).

Israel: Rafi Cohen; Nir Davidovich; 46; Alon Harazi; Ran Ben-Shimon; David Amsalem; Amir Shelah; Ariel Benado; Jan Talasnikov; Walid Badir; Najwan Grayev; Eli Abarbanel; Felix Halton; 46; Alon Mizrahi; (Ronen Hirszi 87).

Dutch headed for
Euro wipeout

LONDON (AP) — Ajax Amsterdam are bounced out of the UEFA Cup by modest Spartak Moscow, there's no one in the last eight of the Champions Cup and Roda JC have to score four goals at Italy's Vicenza to advance to the Cup Winners semifinal.

Things don't look good for Dutch soccer clubs in Europe. Some of the most talented players in world soccer happen to be Dutch — Dennis Bergkamp and Mark Overmars are at England's title-chasing Arsenal, Patrick Kluivert is with AC Milan, Clarence Seedorf plays for Real Madrid.

The fact that Ajax are romping away in the Dutch league suggests there's a paucity of further talent back home. The Amsterdam soccer giant lost 3-1 at home and 1-0 away to Spartak and now the Dutch have little hope of having a single team in the last four of any of Europe's competitions.

Roda were beaten 4-1 at home by Vicenza, which are 11th in Serie A and have one eye on the prospect of relegation.

Fifth from last in the Dutch league, Roda don't appear capable of scoring a minimum 4-0 win in Italy, especially without Hungarian striker Gabor Torma, who injured a hamstring in training and could be out for the rest of the season.

Vicenza, whose form in Europe has been far better than their domestic performances, aren't expecting to lose a three-goal, first-leg advantage.

"This squad has two faces and the problem is whether against Roda we'll be Jekyll or Hyde," said midfielder Fabio Viviani, who'll skipper the side today.

There's a strong push we get from being in a European competition, and that enthusiasm helps," said Viviani who, nine years ago, was a reserve for AC Milan that won a Champions Cup title.

Chelsea, who also won on the road in the first leg, are strongly favored to win the trophy and are unlikely to lose at Stamford Bridge to Real Betis of Spain.

Player-manager Gianluca Vialli, who replaced Ruud Gullit a month ago, has to decide what his role will be. In Seville two weeks ago, he stayed on the bench and watched lanky Norwegian striker Tore Andre Flo take the Betis defense apart with two early strikes in a 2-1 win for the Blues.

Gianfranco Zola, whose low-key form has puzzled both Chelsea fans and Italian coach Cesare Maldini this season, shows signs of getting back to his best and likely will partner Flo in attack with Vialli and Mark Hughes again on the bench.

The other two quarterfinals are more evenly balanced. Stuttgart host Slavia Prague with the two teams level at 1-1 while Lokomotiv Moscow receive AЕК Athens with the two teams yet to score.



For a fistful of dollars

Ukrainian Yevgeny Zolotaryov screams in jubilation after pummeling Douglas Deuch of the US in a fist-fighting match in Kiev on Tuesday. Deuch was rushed to the hospital where he died yesterday.

Pakistan
frustrates
Zimbabwe
hopes

BULAWAYO (Reuters) — Zimbabwe's hopes of winning the opening Test match against Pakistan were frustrated by a determined fifth-wicket partnership of 110 either side of tea between Youssaf Youhana and Moin Khan yesterday.

Yousaf — in only his second Test — made a cultured 64 and, with Moin, who went on to compile a well-struck 97, denied the Zimbabwe bowlers for 41 overs.

Although the 23-year-old Yousaf was eventually dismissed in the 87th over after top-edging a pull off Heath Streak to wide mid-on, Pakistan were effectively safe at 190 for five with just 19 overs left.

Set an unlikely target of 368, Pakistan resumed the fifth and final day at 24 without loss and they were 258 for six when the match was called off 6.3 overs early.

Moin, who dominated a brisk sixth-wicket stand of 68 with Ijaz Ahmed, was denied a fourth Test century when he mistimed a sweep off the occasional slow left-arm of Dirk Viljoen to short fine leg.

"It really is a pretty flat track and I think we played pretty well to take six wickets in their second innings," Zimbabwe captain Alistair Campbell said.

Manchester City is moving closer to the abyss

MANCHESTER (Reuters) — These are grim days for Manchester City. The grimmest, bleakest days in their 111-year history.

For while their arch-rivals Manchester United are glimpsing the stars, City are heading for the abyss of relegation to the third tier of English soccer for the first time.

The resignation of former playing hero Francis Lee as chairman on Monday following Saturday's 2-1 defeat at Port Vale has left City 22nd in the first division, the lowest position in their history.

They only have eight matches to save themselves from the drop, but there are few who expect them to avoid it.

It is not so long ago that City were challenging not only United for supremacy in Manchester but the likes of Liverpool, Arsenal, Tottenham and Everton for supremacy in England.

But it has now been 22 years since City last won a trophy — the League Cup in 1976 — and their recent decline has been so swift it is hard now to remember they were in the Premier League for the first four years of its existence from

1992-96.

For it now looks as though worse is to come and they will start 1998-99 as a second division side because the continuous, almost violent, decline of one of Britain's most famous clubs shows no sign of abating.

The story of their fall is made worse by the recent successes of the Red monster five miles across town.

Joe Royle, who, like Lee once played for City, is the eighth manager in the last four years to try and turn the club around in the shadow of United's success.

All he can realistically aim for this season is to avoid the drop, and while he might yet succeed he has a huge job in re-building the soul of the club, being kept alive by the unbelievable loyalty of its supporters.

At most home matches in this most miserable of seasons, some 28,000 fans have come to Maine Road to try and will the club back to its former glories.

In reality the man now charged with that responsibility is City's new chairman David Bernstein.

He needs to claw back 20 lost years,

which fans, club historians, assorted pundits and the evidence itself shows began when the late Peter Swales took control of the club in the early-1970s.

Swales, also a lifelong City fan, has widely been blamed for their downfall.

When he took over in 1973, impatient for glory, the club were still basking in the afterglow of the heady successes of the triumvirate of Lee, Colin Bell and Mike Summerbee who had led them to the League Championship in 1968, the FA Cup in 1969 and a League Cup and European Cup Winners Cup double in 1970.

But, headstrong from the start, he uttered 14 words which were to haunt him forever.

"If I don't bring success in two years, I expect to get the chop," he said. He didn't bring the club success. But he didn't quit either.

Almost immediately, he had problems with flamboyant manager Malcolm Allison and sacked him within a year saying: "There was just too much show-biz at this club."

Ever full of contradictions, Swales

then brought Allison back in 1979, ousted the more pragmatic Tony Book, who had guided them to the League Cup triumph in 1976.

City's financial troubles began to appear at about the same time with a number of questionable transfers — a problem still affecting City today according to Lee.

"In the last four years upwards of £30 million has been spent on this club one way or another and we have got very little to show for it."

"We have not bought quality players and we have not organised them right, it has not worked for us on the pitch."

Lee exempted Georgi Kinkladze from his blistering attack on managers and players and there is no doubt that he is just the latest of some excellent players who have worn City's sky-blue shirt during the last two depressing decades.

But like many others before him, Kinkladze has been powerless to stop the downward spiral.

And at the same time City have failed to develop their own talented youngsters. Soccer magazines have regularly

run teams of players now doing superbly well elsewhere who were all allowed to leave City when young.

The captain of every one of these phantom City teams is Ryan Giggs, who played for City as a junior, never signed a contract and has since become one of the greatest players in Manchester United's long history, ironically scoring the winner on his full League debut for United against City on May 4, 1991.

As the decline set in so the supporters' dislike of Swales intensified, leading to the most hate-filled "out" campaign in English soccer history.

Eventually after years of vilification, Swales left the club in 1994 with Lee replacing him.

Swales died two years later and with their former playing favorite Lee now in charge at Maine Road, the supporters felt that perhaps a turning point had come. It had. But for the worse. That was the year City were relegated to the first division.

Despite his popularity and love of City, Lee said on Monday he was never given

a chance at Maine Road.

"Behind the scenes at this club there are some insincere people who have been trying to blacken my name during my time as chairman."

"I could have got rid of some of them, but they would have become an even bigger menace. There were enemies within and without."

So now City have lost the man proclaimed as a savior four short years ago.

Royle has proved himself to be an excellent manager in the past, taking Everton to victory in the 1995 FA Cup Final over Manchester United, and transforming Oldham from a lower-division club to a Premier League club on a limited budget by the early 1990s.

Now he has an even tougher task on his hands, but if City are to bounce back, perhaps they could look across to Old Trafford to see perhaps how things should be done.

Since 1981 Manchester City have had 12 managers and won nothing. Manchester United have had two managers and won 12 trophies. Clearly somebody is doing something right.